

Hafa Adai!

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\$1

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Final DPW notice issued for CUC's 'repeated violations'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Acting Department of Public Works secretary Ray N. Yumul finally ran out of patience with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over its alleged repeated violation of not restoring roads that it had cut up or dug for its projects.

Yumul issued a final notification Wednesday to CUC, addressed to acting CUC executive director Dr. Dallas Peavey Jr., for CUC to address the violations for its road trenching projects that, according to DPW, create significant safety concerns for the public.

"When construction companies or individuals apply for road cutting, those people follow DPW regulations by promptly paving and restoring

See DPW on Page 4



Yumul



SEA CADETS

Cadets of the Saipan chapter of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets' Natibu Division check out the bridge of the USNS Watson last Saturday, April 8, during a tour of the U.S. Navy vessel.

Story on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

US visa fee increases effective May 30

Effective May 30, 2023, the U.S. Department of State will be increasing certain nonimmigrant visa application processing fees worldwide.

According to an April 11, 2023 notice on the U.S. Embassy website in Manila, the

application fee for visitor visas for business or tourism (B1/B2s) and other non-petition-based NIVs, such as student and exchange visitor visas, will increase from \$160 to \$185.

See VISA on Page 4

IN PENDING CRIMINAL CASE VS TORRES Defense again wants OAG disqualified

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The team of lawyers set to represent former governor Ralph DLG Torres in his pending criminal case has filed another motion for reconsideration, this time for the Superior Court to reconsider its decision denying the defense's motion to disqualify the Office of the Attorney General as a prosecutor in this case.

With the ex-governor's trial set to start on June 5, 2023, his defense team has filed another motion seeking reconsideration, this time regarding the court's Aug. 23, 2022, decision.

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'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until

'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

169

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Pink Petals Beauty Salon is now in full bloom after the recent addition of a new barber.

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WORLD

Ukraine investigates a gruesome video that purportedly shows the beheading of a soldier.

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LIFE & STYLE

A French news website claims that Gérard Depardieu has been accused of groping extras.

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72% of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be "trustworthy" or "very trustworthy"

DATE BASED ON NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS

Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News*

*SOURCE:

i Minagahet - Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council

A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Islands

<https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/>



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Local

Gerrard is named to MVA board, Itibus and Sablan to CNMI Scholarship board

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has nominated Sachico N. Gerrard to serve on the Marianas Visitors Authority board, while Elizabeth Emma C. Itibus and Monique Boyer Sablan were nominated to serve as members of the CNMI Scholarship board.

Gerrard will represent Saipan businesses on the MVA board, while Itibus and Sablan will represent the Third Senatorial District (Saipan and the Northern Islands) on the Scholarship board.

If confirmed by the Senate, Gerrard, who is the acting general manager of Aqua Resort Club, will serve the remaining term vacated by Thomas T. H. Liu, which will expire on July 17, 2023.

Palacios informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) that the nomination shall serve as a re-appointment of Gerrard to serve a subsequent four-year term, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

With respect to Itibus' ap-

pointment, because the terms of the board are staggered, if confirmed by the Senate, she will serve the remaining term vacated by Zerlyn Taimanao, which will expire on June 22, 2023.

Palacios said the nomination also serve as a re-appointment of Itibus to serve a subsequent four-year term, subject to advice and consent of the Senate and will expire on June 22, 2027.

Regarding Sablan's appointment, because the terms of the board are staggered, if confirmed by the Senate, she will serve the remaining term vacated by Geralyn Dela Cruz, which will expire on June 22, 2026.

Sablan used to serve as special assistant for Youth Affairs and managing director for the CNMI Cannabis Commission.

The Scholarship board reviews applications for student grants, student loans, and other programs of student financial assistance administered by the CNMI Scholarship Office. It also recommends objective standards for the award of student financial aid.



Palacios

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'Long-term goal is to have sustained level of Japanese visitors'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said his administration does not only want to just jumpstart the Japan tourism market, but to have a sustained level of regular visitors from the country to the Commonwealth.

In order to achieve that long-term investment, the CNMI would need to work on

destination enhancement, said Palacios at a press conference in the governor's conference room last Tuesday afternoon.

He recounted that during his and the Marianas Visitors Authority's recent four-day trip to Japan, they assured Japan travel agencies and airlines

that they are already starting the Garapan revitalization and the commitment to improving tourist sites and cleaning up of the islands.

The governor said they did ask point-blank what they believe needs to be done and that the response was that the CNMI needs to

clean up Saipan.

"And that's what we've all been saying," he added.

Secondly, the CNMI needs to add more activities and amenities to the destination, Palacios said, quoting the feedback they got.

With respect to the China tourism market, Palacios said he believes it's in the CNMI's best interest to begin searching and reinvigorating differ-

ent target markets, rather than just concentrating on the Chinese market.

"The reality on the ground is that we need to prepare ourselves," he said.

Just looking at the world news every day makes the situation obvious, he added. "Rather than stick our head in the sand, we need to move away from that and look for other opportunities," he said.

As for the Taiwan tourism market, Palacios said it's not that big, but it's an option that they need to look at closely and perhaps see what they need to do to nurture that market so they can get some tourists from Taiwan.

Gloria Cavanagh, who is the acting MVA board chair and was also present at the press conference, disclosed that the CNMI is limited by the number of plane seats that come in from Japan, since the flights are only thrice a week, for 166 seats per flight.

"So you're only looking at a little over 2,000 seats that are actually available," Cavanagh said.

She said they did have some good number of arrivals, about over 1,000 people, from Japan last December, January, and February.

Cavanagh said March was really small and that's because they did not run their promotion at that time.

"We are hoping it will increase. We're kind of hoping that, by the summer at least, we will have around 70% to 80% load factor," she said.

Bill that creates exemption to marriage certificate requirement is now a law

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has signed into laws a bill that creates an exemption of the requirement that a marriage certificate include the "places of residence" and a bill that will lower the interest rate of civil money judgments from 9% to 3%.

House Bill 23-10, House Draft 1, is now Public Law 23-03. House Bill 23-1 is now Public Law 23-1.

House Bill 23-10 was authored by Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and co-sponsored by several others. The House passed the bill, with amendments, last Feb. 3. The Senate passed the legislation without amendments last March 9.

House Bill 23-1 was authored by Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan). The House passed the bill without amendments last Feb. 3. The Senate passed the legislation, without amendments,

last March 9.

With respect to House Bill 23-10, House Draft 1, Sablan stated in the legislation that Public Law 22-25 amended 8 CMC Section 1204 to remove the 10-day restriction to submit a marriage certificate by any religious and/or non-religious entity that was enacted into law on Nov. 3, 2022.

Sablan said the time limit was preventing otherwise valid marriage certificates from being filed with the CNMI Recorder.

The CNMI Recorder is authorized to file marriage certificates only if the certificates detail certain information, including "places of residence" for the bride and groom.

However, Sablan said, before the modernization of marriage certificates for governmental purposes, church certificates did not always in-

clude information regarding residences.

He said this was particularly true during the time when marriage was administered when the Northern Marianas islands were still under the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Sablan said the inability of a person to file an otherwise valid marriage certificate can prevent a government agency from confirming the marital status of that person.

He underscored the need

» **Legislation that lowers civil money judgments interest rate also signed into law**

Water service interruption for Kannat Tabla TSA

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, for the Kannat Tabla Tank Service Area.

■ **Time:** 8am to 4:30pm

■ **Area(s) affected:** Kannat Tabla, partial areas of As Terlaje, As Perdido, and Fina Sisu

■ **Purpose:** The scheduled water service interruption is necessary for the CUC water crew to repair a malfunction-

ing pressure reducing valve located in Kannat Tabla.

■ **Roadway(s) affected:** CUC operators will be working on the shoulder of the eastbound lane on Kannat Tabla Road.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

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20 Sea Cadets from the CNMI visit USNS *Watson*

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Twenty cadets of the Saipan chapter of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets' Natibu Division toured last Saturday, April 8, the U.S. Navy vessel USNS *Watson* that was docked on Saipan.

According to CNMI Natibu Division's spokesperson Michael Bacher, the Natibu Division cadets, with ages ranging from 10 to 17, boarded the USNS *Watson* for an educational tour of the vessel.

Over 30 officers and crew aboard the *Watson* eagerly welcomed the

Natibu Division cadets, Bacher said, and proudly showed off the best of their ship. The tour included visits to the bow, pilot house, cargo holds, and engine room, which is powered by two gas turbine engines capable of producing 64,000 shaft horsepower.

In addition to the tour, the ship's

crew also hosted the cadets for lunch, "which proved to be the highlight for many cadets," Bacher said.

According to cadet Michael Pangilinan, he was impressed by the high-tech navigation equipment on the bridge, particularly the radar and he wants to learn more about how it works.

Cadet Darlincia Masga said she learned that USNS *Watson* has a hospital, making it an excellent platform for providing medical services in support of international U.S. humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. She also thought the lunch was delicious.

Cadet Gregory Camacho shared that he could not believe that the whole ship was powered by two gas turbine engines that would propel it to a top speed of 24 knots or about 28 miles per hour.

The visit was sponsored by Maritime Prepositioning Squadron 2 out of Diego Garcia, which has operation control over the *Watson*.

The 950-foot-long ship is operated by Patriot Contract Services out of Concord California.

The *Watson* is a Large Medium Speed Roll On/Roll Off ship that is owned by the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command and is forward deployed with Army cargo ready

for a military contingency at a moment's notice.

An LMSR can deploy from the Saipan anchorage and respond to most regional hot spots in under a week. Each civilian-crewed LMSR has more than 380,000 square feet of cargo-carrying capacity.

The USNS *Watson* can carry an entire US Army Task Force, including 58 tanks, 48 other tracked vehicles, as well as more than 900 trucks and other wheeled vehicles.

The Navy Sea Cadet Corps is a federally chartered non-profit regimented civilian youth program sponsored by the Navy League and supported by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard. It is open to all children ages 10 to 18 who hold a U.S. citizenship or green card.

The goal of the CNMI Natibu Division is to develop an interest in seamanship and seafaring skills, instill principles of good citizenship and strong moral character, demonstrate the value of a substance-free lifestyle, and expose cadets to the prestige of a military or merchant marine career.

For inquiries on how to become a Sea Cadet, contact Selina Taitano at staitano@seacadets.org or log onto seacadets.org and follow the link to join.

Interested individuals may also call the division's commanding officer, Ray Alvarez, at 670 989-7266 for more information.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Twenty cadets of the Saipan chapter of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets' Natibu Division tour the U.S. Navy vessel USNS *Watson* that was docked on Saipan last Saturday, April 8.

DEFENSE

From Page 1

sion to deny the defense's motion to disqualify the OAG.

In addition, the defense also wants Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino to disqualify special prosecutor James Kingman, whom the OAG hired last month to assist in prosecuting this case.

"Mr. Torres respectfully requests that the court reconsider its order granting in part and denying in part defendant's motion for Office of the Attorney General to withdraw or be disqualified as prosecutor, dated Aug. 23, 2022; and disqualify the special prosecutor and the Office of the Attorney General from prosecuting the remaining counts [against Torres]," said the motion.

Back in August 2022, Tolentino granted in part and denied in part the defendant's motion for the OAG to withdraw or be disqualified as prosecutor.

According to the August 2022 order, the court granted the dismissal of the contempt charge filed against Torres, but denied the request to disqualify the OAG as prosecutor in this case.

However, the defense now argues that the court's previous order was interlocutory (meaning non-final or temporary) and the defense may ask for reconsideration if there is grounds to justify a reconsideration. The motion also states there are grounds to justify reconsideration of the court's decision not to disqualify the OAG.

"Here, there are grounds for the court to reconsider its disqualifica-

tion order because of the need to correct clear errors and to prevent manifest injustice," states the motion.

One of the arguments made by the defense in its 17-page motion was that Torres was deprived of his right to a meaningful hearing—"a constitutional violation in clear error and a manifest injustice" that warrants reconsideration.

"A meaningful opportunity is especially crucial in this motion as disqualifying the OAG in a criminal prosecution is an extraordinary judicial act. Mr. Torres was not afforded a meaningful hearing for his disqualification motion because he was prevented from presenting witnesses and testimony to fully develop the record and substantiate the need for the extraordinary judicial act of disqualifying the OAG," said the motion.

"Mr. Torres was denied the opportunity to call the investigators of the OAG as witnesses. Those witnesses would have provided further testimony on the scope of advice the OAG provided the governor and the CNMI Executive Branch on premium class travel during the relevant time periods. Mr. Torres was also denied the opportunity to call members of the Travel Committee assigned to update the CNMI Travel Policy, who would have testified on the advice on premium travel that was provided by the OAG as counsel. The testimony would not only have fully developed the record for the court, but it would have also provided substantial evidence to show why disqualification was appropriate. The need for such witnesses was imperative, especially because Mr. Torres' first and most important witness, Lt. Gov. Arnold

Palacios, suffered a severe medical condition at the beginning of his testimony which incapacitated him and rendered him incapable to testify," the motion added.

Other arguments made by the defense include allegations of non-existent screening on the OAG's part.

"The OAG has previously represented to this court that a 'screen' or 'wall' had been erected within its office to shield this case from AG Manibusan and other assistant attorneys general. The procurement of the special prosecutor and the [Open Government Act] request demonstrate that is simply not the circumstance," the defense argued.

Meanwhile, in the same motion, the defense asked that the court disqualify Kingman "because he was not properly screened" as required by law and was exposed to the knowledge and conflict of interest attributable to Manibusan.

"The Feb. 28, 2023, contract with the special prosecutor conclusively establishes that AG Manibusan was directly involved in the discussions and negotiations with the special prosecutor, even though he was supposedly screened from this case. The contract also unequivocally establishes that the special prosecutor is the lead prosecutor for this case. It should be noted that the contract does not state that the special prosecutor will assist the current AAGs that are handling this case. Most importantly, though, the contract expressly provides that the special prosecutor will be the 'responsible attorney for this engagement' and that the special prosecutor would report directly to AG Manibusan," the defense argued.

DPW

From Page 1

the affected roadway that was dug up. CUC is no exception," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The acting DPW secretary notified Peavey that all trenced portion of the roadways must be addressed within 60 days of the notice.

A \$5,000 fee will be assessed with each violation and a \$250 civil penalty will be imposed per day, pursuant to Section 4924 of Public Law 5-41.

Yumul stated in the letter that several dialogues and written notifications have already transpired within five years to resolve these hazards.

"Much to our dismay, road cuttings continued unscathed and with little regard to public safety," he said.

Yumul said that DPW is finally clamping down on this practice to create a balanced approach to all users of NMI roadways and to reestablish conformity and safety

for the public.

Despite this, Yumul said that DPW continues to support CUC's objectives in all underground repairs and constructions along rights of ways and does not object to the continued and ongoing CUC projects.

In CUC's response to the notices of violations, Yumul said the utilities agency noted that it relies on a private contractor through an invitation to bid advertisement for the restoration of all CUC road cutting and trenching on roads.

But Yumul pointed out that CUC remains responsible for compliance with all requirements of the permit, including satisfactory inspection of restoration conducted by a DPW highway inspector, a completed contract satisfactory to the permit scope of work, and a DPW approved listing for restoration.

He said they anticipate their continued working relationship with CUC to restore much needed repairs to roadway system.

VISA

From Page 1

The application fee for certain petition-based NIVs for temporary workers (H, L, O, P, IQ, and R categories) will increase from \$190 to \$205.

The application fee for a treaty trader, treaty investor, and treaty applicant in a specialty occupation (E category) will increase from \$205 to \$315.

Other consular fees remain the same, including the waiver of the two-year residency required fee for certain exchange visitors.

Applicants who have already paid a visa application fee that is currently valid and non-expired, but who have

not yet appeared for their visa interview or are waiting for their case to be processed, will not be charged any additional fees.

Applicants who have already been interviewed and whose cases are under administrative processing will not have to pay additional application fees.

"We are committed to efficient visa processing so international visitors can travel to the United States. Visa application fees are calculated based on the cost of providing the service," said a U.S. Embassy statement on its Facebook page.

More information on how to apply for a visa can be found at ph.usembassy.gov/visas and on travel.state.gov/visas. (PR/Saipan Tribune)

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UOG student selected for prestigious Truman Scholarship

Christian Gyles Ramos, a University of Guam junior majoring in business, has a simple aspiration: He wants to become the first in his immigrant family from the Philippines to earn a U.S. college degree.

It turns out a whole new world of academic opportunity—something nationwide in scale—awaits this student, who didn't think college was within reach financially.

Ramos has been selected for the Truman Scholarship, a highly competitive and prestigious scholarship established by the U.S. Congress in 1975 as the living memorial to President Harry S. Truman. Ramos can use the \$30,000 scholarship to pursue graduate studies and unlock the door to admis-

sion into some of the country's top universities.

He is the 20th student from the University of Guam to become a Truman Scholar since 1978.

Ramos is one of 62 Truman Scholars this year out of 705 candidates nominated by 275 colleges and universities across the nation.

The scholarship also opens up eligibility into the U.S. Foreign Service, which means he'll have a shot at a future career as a diplomat. Truman scholars' eligibility into the U.S. Foreign Service is part of the legacy of the late Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, said Dr. Gena Rojas, who is a mentor to Ramos and was the eighth Truman



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Christian Gyles Ramos, the 20th Truman Scholar from the University of Guam, is congratulated by his mentor, Dr. Gena Rojas, and vice president of Administration and Finance and chief business officer Randy Wiegand.

Scholar from UOG, having earned it in 2002.

"This scholarship is about being a change agent. It demonstrates you have the commitment to public service, a commitment to positively contribute to communities and to societies at large. Christian's advocacy to give a voice to many in our society who have not felt seen or heard is one the best examples of a Truman Scholar and a UOG Triton," said Rojas.

The announcement brought tears of joy to many who recently gathered at UOG with the Ramos family.

For the Ramos family, it was a breakthrough from a cycle of juggling jobs to get by and putting aside the college dreams of some in the 10-children household.

For UOG, Ramos' achievement showcases that UOG students are among nation's

best, and that UOG has faculty mentors dedicated to seeing their students succeed.

It could not have happened to a better student than Ramos, said vice president of Administration and Finance and chief business officer Randy Wiegand.

Ramos recalled that he wasn't even sure if he could afford college because his parents were raising him and his nine siblings.

He said he thought of going straight from high school into getting a job because he didn't want to burden his parents. His mom, Berlyn Ramos, works in food service while his dad, Jaime Ramos, was a taxi driver until a stroke made it impossible for him to continue.

Despite the challenges his family faced, Christian Ramos' parents were his biggest champions for him getting a college education.

"I'm really proud of what I was able to endure and what my family was able to endure," said Ramos.

Dr. Sharleen Santos Bamba, interim vice provost for Academic Excellence, Graduate Studies and Online Learning, said, "It is amazing to know that our students can compete anywhere in the world."

UOG's Truman Scholars over the years:

- Kehani Mendiola – 2021
- Athena McNinch – 2017
- Rebecca Casimbon – 2015
- Jose Salas Cruz, Jr. – 2009
- Elvira Manglona – 2007
- Sahara June Defensor – 2006
- JakinDee M. Aguon-Peres – 2005
- Donna L. Gomez – 2001
- Mary Grace Mendoza-Lapid – 2000
- William B. Cruz-Jones – 2004
- Gena A. Rojas – 2002
- Jesse T. San Nicolas – 1990
- Duane M. George – 1989
- Demian M. Fitzgerald – 1988
- Leilana V. Lujan – 1986
- John Jerry Ignacio – 1985
- Marie T. Deloso – 1983
- Maria Nancy V. Guhit – 1979
- Joaquin V. Leon Guerrero – 1978

For more information about the Truman Scholarship application at UOG, contact Rojas, associate professor of Public Administration, School of Business and Public Administration at (671)735-2514/2501 or rojasg@triton.uog.edu. (UOG)

NMHC invites entries for writing contest

By **CHRISTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is once again hosting the My Marianas Writing Contest, this time focusing on what "home" means to young writers in the CNMI.

This year, NMHC is partnering with the CNMI Scholarship Office to offer this writing contest, which is open to all interested CNMI high school students from ninth to twelfth grade.

The theme for this year's competition is "Senses of Home" and requires the writer to describe their island creatively and effectively through their five senses. All essays must be three to five pages long, double-spaced, and should demonstrate not only

creative but skillfully descriptive writing, as the author attempts to describe the Marianas as a home.

The overall best submission will win \$500, with the second placer getting \$400 and third-place winner will get \$300. The winner's essays will also be featured in the local newspapers and on the NMHC website.

Submit your entries to info@nmhcouncil.org. The last day to submit entries is May 4, 2023, at 4pm.

NMHC held a similar contest last year, but with a focus on the writers' memories of food and cooking.

For more information visit nmhcouncil.org, call Naomi Tudela (670) 235-4785, or email her at naomi@nmhcouncil.org.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: DPW23-RFP No.: 42300067

SUBMISSION DATE: May 15, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Architectural and Engineering Design for Supply, Delivery, & Installation of Childcare Provider Playground Equipment for the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs Saipan, CNMI"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after April 14, 2023 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **May 02, 2023, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 207 Building Code Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 10, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan** or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

S/ MARY M.S. SABLAN
Secretary, DCCA

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
PROCUREMENT SERVICES



Christian Gyles Ramos, the 20th Truman Scholar from the University of Guam, holds a congratulatory letter as he is joined by School of Business and Public Administration faculty and administrators. From left, Frank Ishizaki, Dr. Judi Guthertz, dean Lawrence Camacho, Dr. Sharleen Santos Bamba, Dr. Gena Rojas, Dr. Fred Schumann, interim SBPA dean Dr. Roseann Jones, Dr. James Ji and Dr. Ron McNinch.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Camacho continues to officiate marriages on Saipan

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Jose Blas Camacho has been continuously officiating marriages for couples who apply through the Saipan Mayor's Office. A statement from his



Camacho

office states that Camacho remains committed to provid-

ing these services to the community as long as the application for marriage is complete with supporting documents and the requirements have been met. The Saipan Mayor's Office has officiated numerous marriages, irrespective of gender or nationality.

Couples who are considering marriage but have questions or would like more information should contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670) 234-6208. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor's Office is also open through lunch. (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Council on Developmental Disabilities & Disability Network Partners

2023 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

2023 CHAMPIONS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Council and its partners, once again celebrated some outstanding individuals who truly embodied what advocacy is all about. Please join us as we celebrate and honor members of our community that have dedicated their lives to helping and improving the lives of people with Developmental Disabilities.

Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: John Allen A. Cabrera
Tinian: Maria H. Aguon
Rota: Concepcion SN. Ulloa

Community Member Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Vicente M. Babauta &
Benjamin S. Babauta
Tinian: Tracy Sanchez
Rota: Angie A.M. Hocog-Muna

Educator Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Tai Doram
Tinian: Doris San Nicolas
Rota: Elvira Mesngon

Employer Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Center for Living Independently
Tinian: Center for Living Independently
Rota: Rota Health Center

Family Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Dr. Yvonne R. Pangelinan
Tinian: Felipe Aquino
Rota: Pauline Manglona

Legislative Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Former Congresswoman Leila Staffler
Tinian: Senator Jude U. Hofschneider
Rota: Senator Donald M. Manglona

Private Business Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Delta Management Corp. & Northern Marianas
Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc.
Tinian: Bar-K Diner
Rota: Kin & Rit Enterprises

Public Entity Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: DCCA: Division of Youth Services
Tinian: Northern Marianas College-Tinian Campus
Rota: Rota Mayor's Office

Self-Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Hannah Igisaia
Tinian: Cherry Mae Penaranda
Rota: Rosemina Hocog Poll

NMC-UCEDD-HEROES:

Saipan: Bre Tudela Humphries, Devonne P. Sablan
& Juanicia Villanueva
Tinian: Henry H. San Nicolas Jr.

“ THE PURPOSE OF HUMAN LIFE IS TO SERVE,
AND TO SHOW COMPASSION AND THE WILL TO HELP OTHERS ”
Albert Schweitzer

DISABILITY NETWORK PARTNERS



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Getting ready for the next mass murder with assault weapons

Innocent people are dead, shot by a young man with a potent firearm, who died after an exchange of gunfire with police. Do you know what we're referencing? By the date, you might know it's those killed Monday by a 23-year-old bank employee in Louisville, but otherwise it could be one of dozens.

What are we doing here? What's left to say? Nothing that hasn't been said before, nothing that can't best be said by the wails of the survivors, robbed once more of their loved ones in service to nothing, in furtherance of nothing, accomplishing nothing but to satisfy the malign fantasies of another angry recluse.

As the shots ring out in that familiar cadence—the drumbeat of death feared by those attending school, seeing a movie with friends, grocery shopping, attending a concert, or otherwise daring to exist in public—the multifaceted lives of those in the firing line are flattened to two things only.

They are props for the deranged grievance-settling of some washout whose motivating ideology is immaterial to the cold steel of the rifle that gives him, for a few brief moments, a pathetic facsimile of the authority he believes he is owed. And they are another batch of sacrifices for leaders who have, out of shark-eyed political self-preservation, abject cowardice or some mix of the two, allowed the gun to reign supreme, above life, above liberty.

It's been 11 days since federal installations raised flags again after President Joe Biden ordered them flown at half-staff in remembrance of the six people killed at The Covenant School shooting in Nashville two weeks ago. Will the president sign another proclamation? If so, we recommend he make it auto-extending, or just permanent, to save himself the trouble of issuing it again and again. Let the perennial half-staff flags be the new symbol of our government, and its priorities.

In the meantime, we begin writing our next editorial: Innocent people are dead, shot by a young man with a potent firearm ...

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Should we bring AI into hospitals? Let's find the middle ground

Recently, two major news stories in the technology world broke out. The first one was about a call by big names in the technology sector to pause the development of artificial intelligence. The second was about the use of large language models, or LLMs, in health care. That followed a recent interview with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, who revealed that ChatGPT and other applications based on LLMs will allow us to "have medical advice for everybody."

Some technology leaders are calling for pausing AI development altogether while another suggests that we should integrate AI into one of the most vital sectors of the society: namely, health care.

If this seems confusing, it is—because both ideas are radical and can be seen as the opposite ends of a spectrum regarding technology. But I think we can find a middle ground.

The idea of pausing the development of technology indicates misconceptions about how science and technology evolve. Technological developments arise organically when a combination of social demands, enthusiastic investors and a vision for harnessing innovation are present. Investments can be loosely supervised, but the other two factors cannot be paused. Indeed, pausing is not only unfeasible, but it also is dangerous because it deters transparent development and communication about recent improvements.

Technology is like an unstoppable train that runs on tracks we've laid. To minimize risks of harm, it is essential to be proactive and strategically guide technology development by steering it away from areas with high potential for harm and direct it toward small-scale experiments.

Let's take health care, for instance. Pausing AI development completely would mean losing out on potential benefits that time-strapped clinicians could use to improve care. For instance, clinicians might one day use LLMs to write letters to insurance companies and investigate medical notes for tracing liabilities.

That said, as an ethics expert, I cannot ignore my responsibility to warn society about the risks and trade-offs of a hurried approach regarding the integration of LLMs in health care. These efforts could pave the path to collecting patients' health data, which might include medical notes, test results and all kinds of information.

Thanks to OpenAI's newly released GPT4, which can understand and analyze images, in addition to text, scans and X-rays could be among the collected health data. Data collection efforts often start with offering applications that facilitate efficiency. For example, analyzing notes to summarize a patient's history, which could be a major help for overworked clinicians, could be the pretext needed to collect a patient's historical data.

So what is the middle ground?

Whether we like it or not, vital sectors including health care use technologies that collect our data. While we are not even re-

By **MOHAMMAD HOSSEINI**

Chicago Tribune

Mohammad Hosseini, Ph.D., is a postdoctoral scholar in the preventive medicine department at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, a member of the Global Young Academy and an associate editor of the journal Accountability in Research.



motely prepared for the integration of LLMs in health care, pausing their development is not the solution. Like other technologies, LLMs will eventually be integrated into sectors like health care, and so small-scale experiments open up space for reflection and evaluation of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Furthermore, experimenting with LLMs allows their developers to collate and address concerns around privacy, data security, accuracy, biases and accountabilities, among others.

Ethical issues aside, incorporating LLMs into existing health care systems—while also navigating legal issues—is not only extremely challenging, but it also takes time and requires implementation instead of pausing to explore potential legal obstacles. The medical landscape is heavily regulated and has all kinds of checks and balances to protect patients, clinicians, health care providers and wider society.

In some now-hypothetical scenarios involving AI—for example, drawing wrong conclusions from available data, misleading or interfering with the diagnosis, sharing health data with third parties—our legal systems and the notion of liabilities could be pushed to their limits because they were not designed to deal with these challenges and thus are not ready for such an enormous shift.

In the case of loosely regulated data—similar to a web browser's cookies that keep revealing information about us—we don't know what information can be collected and transferred by LLMs. We have yet to learn about the purposes for which our data could be analyzed, where it will be stored, who will have access, how well it will be protected and so many other unknowns. While pausing is not helping any of these, a cursory adoption could be catastrophic.

So the middle ground involves cautious experimentation with small-scale LLMs and evaluating their performance, while observing what their developers will do with our information and trust.

Instead of pausing AI, we should collectively negotiate with AI developers, demanding good faith and transparency to ensure that technology will not make us vulnerable in the future.

Clarence Thomas, a billionaire benefactor and the Supreme Court’s ethics crisis

On Thursday, ProPublica revealed that a right-wing billionaire has secretly funded a lavish lifestyle for Justice Clarence Thomas. Then on Friday, a federal judge in Texas tried to block the use around the country of mifepristone, the medication used in half of all abortions. These two dramatic twists are part of the same story. They show a judicial system out of control, in thrall to right-wing activists and swimming in cash.

It seems that Thomas routinely received luxury travel, gifts and accommodations from Harlan Crow, a real estate developer and Republican benefactor. The Los Angeles Times first reported on the flow of gifts from Crow to Thomas in 2004. Then Thomas simply stopped disclosing them, for nearly two decades.

Details are eye-popping, a tale of luxury trips to faraway vacations, luxury yachts and private jet excursions that would be valued at \$500,000 a pop. A painting shows Thomas, Crow and

Leonard Leo, the leader of the conservative Federalist Society, puffing stogies at a private hotel owned by the real estate mogul: an instantly iconic image of a hermetically sealed world of wealth, ideological militancy and elite chumminess.

Leo, of course, has worked with astonishing success to pack the federal courts with conservatives. Expect more to come: Another billionaire recently gave a new conservative nonprofit controlled by Leo \$1.6 billion to use on his causes.

Thomas has issued a statement saying that he was merely vacationing with family friends, and he had been advised “by colleagues and others in the judiciary” that there was no need for him to disclose the billionaire’s beneficence. Even if he did ask around, that is part of the problem.

The Supreme Court’s members police themselves. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. has said the justices “consult” with the code of judicial conduct for guidance, but we have no way to know exactly how they do that. That DIY approach is perilous.

In 2022, Thomas was the only justice to vote to shield records and documents from the committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Months later it was revealed that those documents included texts between Thomas’ wife, Virginia, and the White House chief of staff about the plot to overturn the 2020 election. Thomas never explained why he did not recuse himself despite this obvious conflict of interest.

What can be done?

Start with a mandatory ethics code at the Supreme Court. The American Bar Association recently urged such a move, noting that the Supreme Court is the only court in the country without such binding rules. “If the legitimacy of the Court is diminished, the legitimacy of all our courts and our entire judicial system is imperiled,” the association said. If the court refuses to adopt such a change, Congress can act.

There are deeper structural issues at the Supreme Court itself. A surprisingly broad bipartisan national consensus supports limiting the justices to an 18-year limit, ending the life terms they now enjoy. The court is an outlier in this respect: All but one state supreme court, for example, has either fixed terms or mandatory retirement. So do constitutional courts in other countries.

This norm reflects the principle that no public official should hold that much power for that long, an insight reflected when

By MICHAEL WALDMAN
Los Angeles Times



Michael Waldman, author of the forthcoming book *The Supermajority: How the Supreme Court Divided America*, is president of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.

George Washington stepped down after two terms. The best proposals would give each president a regular appointment every two years, with justices moving to “senior status” and able to hear cases on the lower courts after 18 years. This reform could likely be implemented by statute and certainly by constitutional amendment.

In the meantime, Congress or the Justice Department should investigate Thomas’ conduct to let the public know the facts and whether the gifts and trips he received violated the law. There’s ample precedent. In 1968, Congress investigated Justice Abe Fortas when it was revealed he took undisclosed support from a wealthy friend. Fortas resigned before facing impeachment.

The ethics and partisanship issues at the Supreme Court are connected to the hyper-charged activism roiling the lower courts. And soon, Thomas could be sitting in judgment on another major ruling imposed by a judge promoted and supported by the Federalist Society.

Conservative activists took advantage of a quirk in federal court rules to place the abortion medication case in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk in Amarillo, Texas. Kacsmaryk is an anti-abortion activist who has been deeply involved in Leo’s Federalist Society.

The judge tried to keep the proceedings secret. His audacious bid to suspend the Food and Drug Administration’s long-standing approval of the drug would affect millions of women nationwide, including in states where abortion care is legal. It was quickly countered by another federal judge, and will likely head to the Supreme Court before Thomas and his conservative colleagues, who were also backed by Leo’s group. Even if Kacsmaryk’s ruling is overturned, it signals another alarming shift in norms, an abuse of power by ideologues in robes.

The Supreme Court faces a crisis. We must have confidence in the court, but that confidence must be earned. Today the court is rapidly squandering that public trust, which has fallen to an all-time low. The rule of law demands action before the next scandals explode.


April is Alcohol Awareness Month

LITERARY NOOK

BY JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



Each April since 1987, the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, Inc. has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to “increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.”

William Oldys, born in 1696 and died April 15, 1761, was an English poet, bibliographer, and antiquarian known to be fastidious in his lifelong task of recording historical data. Biographies of his time state he drank large amounts of alcohol. My surmise is the cup he talks about in the poem contained alcohol. I have appropriated a great deal of his rhyme scheme and the sonnet form he used in my sonnet. These two poems form a call and response from the 18th to the 21st century. They were published together in the *Saipan Tribune* several years ago. They pay homage to both National Poetry Month and Alcohol Awareness Month.

William Oldys: On a Fly Drinking Out of His Cup

Busy, curious, thirsty fly!
Drink with me and drink as I:
Freely welcome to my cup,
Couldst thou sip and sup it up:
Make the most of life you may,
Life is short and wears away.

Both alike are mine and thine
Hastening quick to their decline:
Thine’s a summer, mine’s no more,
Though repeated to threescore.
Threescore summers, when they’re gone,
Will appear as short as one!

J. Connolly: On a Guy Drinking Out of His Mind

Boozing, serious, thirsty barfly!
Drunk like me; here’s mud in your eye:
Spilling shots from a paper cup,
Cans and bottles just sucking em up.
Drinking throughout the rest of the day,
Your life getting shorter - wasting away.

Cheap shots of whisky, beer and wine
Hasten us both to a quick decline:
First we sing, then we’re a bore,
Round after round, calling out for more.
Your ‘happy hour’ has come and gone,
Passing out on your way back to the john.

Tennessee Republicans can’t stop progress

By SEN. LONDON LAMAR and SVANTE MYRICK
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

Across the country, the illogical priorities of the right have become more and more glaring. And nowhere is this worse than in Tennessee, where conservatives have banned books and drag shows but have done nothing to protect kids from what is now their most likely cause of death: gun violence. Instead of addressing this crisis, after the mass shooting at a private elementary school in Nashville on March 27, the Republican-led legislature expelled from its chamber two Black freshman Democrats in their 20s—Reps. Justin Pearson and Justin Jones—for daring to demand commonsense gun control.

That this was a partisan act, a racist act and an anti-democratic act is undeniable. But it was also a desperate and ultimately futile act, one that could lead to positive change in the future.

Nothing could be more revealing of the fragility of the GOP than these expulsions. Republican legislators could have engaged with Pearson and Jones on the issues, but instead they chose to deploy the one weapon at their disposal: a House supermajority that would do their bidding. It was a battle they won in a contest they’re increasingly losing with the wider public.

The Republican Party, today, is swimming against the current on climate change, voting rights, racial equity, reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ rights and, of course, gun safety. It’s infuriating that Tennessee’s legislature has refused to curtail access to firearms, even in light of the state’s high rate of gun violence, agony over the Covenant School shooting and recent polls that show state residents want more safety measures. The unpopularity of this position couldn’t be more clear—hundreds of protesters have flooded the Capitol building to demand action.

But Tennessee is not alone. The same motive driving the state’s conservative lawmakers to resist change is also driving gerrymandering in Wisconsin, Republican efforts to pack the courts, voter suppression laws from Idaho to Georgia and a stub-

born adherence to the “Big Lie.” That motive is fear, because the conservative power structure that held sway for so long knows its days are numbered.

Unlike past generations, millennials are not becoming more conservative as they age. Why? We millennials and Gen Zers have watched our elders invade Iraq, crash the economy, deny climate change and elect Donald Trump as president of the United States. Now, we’re living with the aftermath of *Roe v. Wade*’s repeal and are demanding an alternative path and different leaders.

There is now an international spotlight on Reps. Jones and Pearson and their courage. Civil rights organizations are rallying at their side. While Jones has already been reinstated by county officials (and it’s likely that Pearson will soon be readmitted as well), both will need to run in special elections later this year to fully regain their seats.

Their ouster is a classic Pyrrhic victory for Tennessee Republicans. The short-term “win” of expelling Reps. Jones and Pearson is overshadowed by the scorn they’ve brought on their conservative clique. The young lawmakers will be back, and behind them will be an entire cohort of passionate young progressives that are now fired up and galvanized.

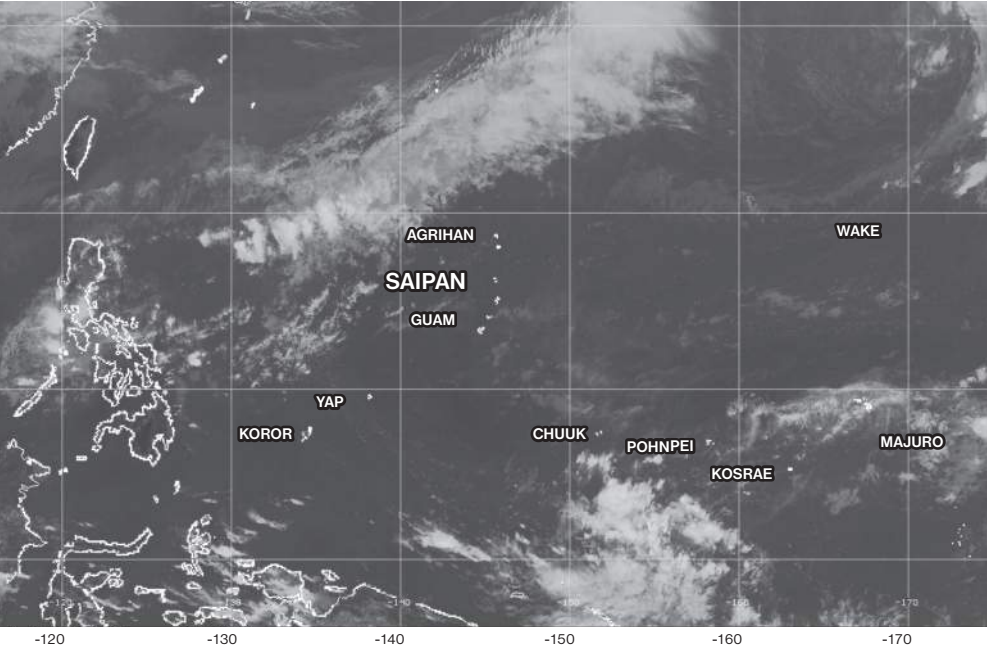
And that’s why we have so much hope today. Our call now, whether we are young or not, is to do all we can to hold the line on our democracy until this rising generation fully takes the reins. Rep. Gloria Johnson, the white lawmaker who stood with Pearson and Jones in their protest of gun violence but was not expelled, is a model for this solidarity. We commend her.

The Tennessee legislature thought it could stem the tide of change. Instead, it may have turned that tide into a tsunami.

London Lamar is a member of the Tennessee Senate, representing District 33. She previously served in the Tennessee House of Representatives. Svante Myrick is president of People For the American Way. He previously served as mayor of Ithaca, New York.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny	
85°	76°	85°	76°	85°	76°	85°	76°	85°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:32 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows almost no showers within the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 6 feet composed of east-northeast trade-wind swell, a small north swell, and east-southeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:21 AM	12:48 PM
Saturday	-	2:15 AM	1:51 PM
Sunday	-	3:04 AM	2:52 PM
Monday	-	3:49 AM	3:50 PM
Tuesday	-	4:30 AM	4:47 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72° / 59°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	78° / 73°	
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 71°	
London	Light Rain	51° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 53°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	89° / 77°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	75° / 61°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 71°	
New York	Sunny	88° / 64°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°	
Busan	Rain	67° / 57°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 45°	
Seoul	Cloudy	72° / 50°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 61°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	88° / 60°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:47 AM	High Tide	1.80	
9:01 AM	Low Tide	1.41	
12:59 PM	High Tide	1.66	
8:55 PM	Low Tide	-0.10	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:45AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Moments with

Mom

(Tribute to All Mothers)

Tan Holdings, in celebration of its 50th Anniversary and this year's Mother's Day, and in partnership with Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, is holding a photo contest to honor a very important person in our lives—our mothers. Share your best captured moment with your mom to show how much you love and value her, and how she has influenced your life and the lives of everyone around her.

CONTEST RULES:

- Contest is open to all residents of the CNMI.
- Submit a photo of you and your mother taken together from any occasion. Selfies are allowed. Write a brief description of the photo, your mother's name, and your contact number.
- Submit entries starting on Friday April 14, 2023. Last day of submission of entries is on May 10, 2023 @5pm. Submit entries via email at rina_robles@tanholdings.com or drop a copy of the photo and other requirements at the Tan Siu Lin Foundation office located on the 2nd Floor of the JP Center Building in Garapan. Only one entry per person will be accepted. For more information, call Rina Robles at 670-235-0561, extension 118.

PRIZES:

- Tan Holdings will pick 50 winners. Each winner will receive a one-night accommodation gift certificate from Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, inclusive of breakfast and dinner for two.
- Winning entries will also be published on the special Mother's Day section of Saipan Tribune on May 12.



Tan Holdings



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Palacios enacts bill to include public libraries in net metering

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios enacted Monday a bill that will include public libraries as an education entity in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s net metering program for renewable energy. House Bill 23-6 is now Public Law 23-02.

The House passed the bill without amendments last Feb.

3. The Senate passed it without amendments last March 9. Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) is the author of the bill. Several others co-sponsored the legislation.

Sablan stated in the bill that including public libraries in the definition of education entities will allow libraries to qualify and apply for federal grants that support



Sablan

the administration's priorities for clean energy to power the future in the U.S. territories as part of the larger efforts toward energy security in America.

Sablan said this will save millions of dollars in utility costs and utilize the money saved for other essential needs of public health and education entities.

Saipan students make honor roll at OSU

CORVALLIS, Ore.—Six students from Saipan have made it to the Scholastic Honor Roll Winter 2023 of Oregon State University.

The Saipan students on the honor roll are:

■ Erin Shimona L. Agulto, sophomore, Human Development and Family Science;
■ Aaron Paul G. Cayad-

ing, freshman, Psychology;

■ Robert Lawrence B. De-leon Guerrero, senior, Agricultural Sciences;

■ Nicole Kim, junior, Psychology;

■ Erica Jonette C. Leon Guerrero, senior, Environmental Sciences.

■ Leagine Francia D. Mendiola, junior, Business

Information Systems.

A total of 12,307 students earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the honor roll, students must carry at least 6 graded hours of course work.

Oregon State is one of only three land, sea, space and sun grant universities in the nation and has more than 35,000 students from across the globe. **(PR)**

EPA regional exec backs sustainable waste management, 'Zero Waste' during her visit



» **CNMI Zero Waste Visioning Workshops: April 18 to 19, 2023**

Senior officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were recently in the CNMI to help launch activities related to CNMI Zero Waste Week, to tour solid waste facilities, and to assess ongoing EPA-funded solid waste projects on Saipan and Tinian. The visit coincided with ongoing efforts to develop the CNMI's Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan.

Martha Guzman, regional administrator of EPA Pacific Southwest, joined Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and other dignitaries last March 30 in proclaiming March 27 to April 2, 2023, as CNMI Zero Waste Week. The proclamation was part of the CNMI Zero Waste Visioning Kickoff Meeting, hosted by the Interisland Solid Waste Management Task Force.

In their remarks during the event, Palacios, Guzman, Saipan Mayor Ramon Jose Blas Camacho, and Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan expressed their support for Zero Waste and shared relevant examples of initiatives under their offices that support achieving Zero Waste in the CNMI.

During the kickoff, the ISWMT presented on what Zero Waste is, ongoing Zero Waste initiatives on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and the timeline for the upcoming months



CNMI OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, second from left, speaks with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency environmental engineer Hallie McManus, EPA Pacific Southwest regional administrator Martha Guzman, and director of the Tribal, Intergovernmental, and Policy Division for the EPA Laura Ebbert about the current state of the Transfer Station and Recycling Center on Tinian during a visit to Tinian by the EPA on March 31, 2023.

as the CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan gets developed. A significant next step is upcoming Zero Waste Visioning Workshops as well as island- and resource-specific follow-up meetings in the months ahead. Once submitted to and approved by the EPA, the plan will be the CNMI's guiding document for solid waste management and will allow the CNMI to access \$56 million in Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act funding administered by the EPA to the CNMI to support critical equipment purchases and solid waste implementation projects.

During their visit, Guzman and the EPA delegation toured

Cell 2 of the Marpi Landfill on Saipan and the Super Typhoon Yutu debris site on Tinian. Projects funded by the EPA through ASADRA are taking place at both sites. The rehabilitation of Cell 2 is expected to be completed in June this year.

Once completed, the rehabilitated Marpi Landfill Cell 2 will be more resilient to extreme weather events such as typhoons and will provide the CNMI with valuable space for its municipal solid waste for years to come. On Tinian, the emergency cleanup of the Yutu debris site following a fire in June last year is in its final stages. All potentially hazardous burnt waste and soil have been transported

off Tinian and sent to Saipan for appropriate processing and disposal. "Preserving our environment is a top priority for our islands," Palacios said. "Achieving Zero Waste and implementing sustainable solid waste management practices in the CNMI is vital to the beauty and quality of life of our people. We are grateful for the partnership of the [EPA] and their contributions to the development of our Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and the incorporation

of Zero Waste Practices. We hope to continue building upon this partnership for the benefit of our community and our environment."

"I want to applaud bringing together people and carefully thinking about what are the causes and what are the things that could be diverted and recycled," said Guzman. "It takes more than all of us in this room. It takes a great collaboration of businesses, nonprofits, and communities with expertise—it's an incredible effort."



CNMI OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Pacific Southwest regional administrator Martha Guzman, fourth from right, is briefed on the progress made on the Marpi Landfill Cell 2 Rehabilitation Project during a tour of the Marpi Landfill on March 30, 2023. Also in the photo are other representatives from the EPA and staff from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Department of Public Works, and Office of Planning and Development.

CNMI Zero Waste Visioning Workshops: April 18 to 19, 2023

The ISWMT invites the community and solid waste management stakeholders to attend the upcoming CNMI Zero Waste Visioning Workshops on April 18 and 19, 2023 virtually and in-person, from 8:30am to 11:30am on both days.

During this two-day event, attendees and the ISWMT will review recent collection and survey data to discuss and identify the CNMI's solid waste management priorities and the steps the CNMI can take to achieve Zero Waste.

If you wish to attend, do confirm your in-person or virtual attendance before close of business on April 17, 2023 by sending an email to joshua.santos@opd.gov.mp.

The ISWMT also encourages you to take the CNMI Waste & Recycling Survey, which is open until May 1, 2023. Your feedback will help ensure this process is addressing cross-cutting community waste management priorities!

Please take the survey and pass it along: www.bit.ly/CNMI-waste-survey. **(PR)**

CPA: We did apply for EAS

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Contrary to what the Commonwealth Ports Authority transition team stated in its report, CPA did try to avail of multiple federal grants, including the Essential Air Service program that would have subsidized inter-island travel in the CNMI. Unfortunately, CPA did not qualify.

Responding to the CPA transition team's criticism that the agency is in "crisis" because of its alleged lack of prospects in averting a fiscal downturn by the end of this fiscal year, the CPA management now says that CPA did avail itself of multiple grants.

One of the grants the transition team recommended in its report was the U.S. Department of Transportation's Essential Air Service program, but CPA stated it did pursue the EAS program, but was found unqualified.

"CPA does not qualify for the EAS program because it is not an 'eligible place.' To be considered an 'eligible place,' the community must have received essential air service between Sept. 30, 2010, and Sept. 30, 2011. The CNMI did not receive essential air service between those two dates," said CPA.

In addition, CPA explained that for the CNMI to be eligible to participate in the EAS program, the U.S. Congress would need to amend 49 U.S. Code section 41731 and include the CNMI as an accepted location.

"CPA has discussed EAS


and its challenges with multiple CNMI officials, including Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP). It is CPA's understanding that there is currently no appetite in [the] U.S. Congress to expand the EAS program," said CPA.

According to online sources, EAS is a federal program enacted to guarantee that small communities in the United States maintain commercial air service. The program's goal is to maintain a minimal level of scheduled air service to small communities that otherwise would

not be profitable.

In a previous *Saipan Tribune* article, Bruce Jorgensen, the CPA transition team member who was tasked with looking into CPA's federal and regulatory compliance, said the CPA is in a "crisis" for multiple reasons, the most worrisome of which is CPA's alleged lack of funding prospects to avert a fiscal downturn.

In addition, Jorgensen claims that CPA also faces a crisis due to management issues and alleged prospective sanctions by the Federal Aviation Administration.



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

Request for Proposals

RFP NO.: RFP23-GOV-42300070

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 5, 2023 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"Multi-Disciplinary Professional Advisory Services Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contract (IDIQ)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT Horiguchi Bldg, Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, MRS. VELMA BENAVENTE VIA EMAIL AT vc.palacios@dof.gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
GOVERNOR

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

RFP NO.: DPW23-RFP NO.: 42300059

SUBMISSION DATE: May 02, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Department of Public Works Planning Road Condition and Flood Hazard Mapping Project"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **March 30, 2023** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **April 20, 2023**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 207 Building Code Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 27, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ PATRICK C. GUERRERO
GOVERNOR'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (GAR)

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Re-scheduled power outage in Lower Base

The scheduled power service interruption in Lower Base that was originally scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023, has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 15, 2023.

- Time: 7:30am – 1:30pm
- Area(s) affected: CUC Warehouse, Power Plant 1 and COTA
- Purpose: For the line crew to relocate and replace transformer, and an ABS switch, to replace a power pole, and install primary lines.
- Time: 12:30pm to 1:30pm
- Area(s) affected: Feeder-7 (Lower Base, Tanapag, As Mahetog, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi). This one-hour outage will only happen as the line crew will be doing some switching to isolate the power for the project site in Lower Base.
- Water well(s) affected: MQ-1, MQ-3B, MQ-5, MQ-8, MQ-10, MQ-11B, MQ-13, MQ-14, MQ-15, & MQ-16
- Wastewater facility affected: T1, T3, SR1, SR2, SR3
- Traffic light(s): Lower Base (near Saipan Ice) (**PR**)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 23-059

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Opening Date: April 11, 2023
Closing Date: April 24, 2023

Fiscal Technician: Customer Service Representative
COA/Customer Service/Call Center
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$23,923.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
Not contracted
Six (6)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- May supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Receives and processes customer payments; screens and verifies check receipts; updates customer accounts; reviews customer account status for partial payment receipts; computes payment information; and issues payment slips.
- May provide field utility meter inspection, testing, investigation, repairs and service documentation.
- Enters and verifies account changes and correction transactions; researches, reconciles and compiles adjustment documentation; prepares billing adjustments; and/or documents customer account status.
- Balances cash and other payment receipts and prepares bank deposits; balances credit card receipts with merchant settlement records; prepares sales deposits; processes customer refund payments; may process and file payroll documents.
- Receives and responds to customer calls and inquiries; reviews account and payment information; explains customer billing regarding charge disputes; assists customers with new accounts, required documentation and application processing; processes work orders as required; and refers inquiries to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and files revenue receipts, change vouchers, and related reports; maintains filing system; and prepares listings, schedules and activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.


Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 4 years of utility accounts or fiscal support experience.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage and testing (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching, reconciling and preparing account adjustments and related documentation; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Researching account information and providing information regarding billing disputes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-013

RELOCATION OF EXISTING 0.065 MG MODULAR TANK IN KAGMAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Relocation of Existing 0.065 MG Modular Tank in Kagman, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment and materials for the relocation of an existing water tank within San Vicente Water tank site to the existing Kagman booster pump station site. Work includes, but is not limited to disassembly and relocation of an existing 65,000-gallon modular fiberglass potable water tank; demolition and disposal of existing temporary tank plinth at San Vicente Tank site; construction of tank foundation; installation of relocated tank, piping and appurtenances; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the us Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-013, Relocation of the Existing 0.065 MG Modular Water Tank in Kagman"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 19, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY, JR.
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Pink Petals Beauty Salon adds new barber

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pink Petals Beauty Salon is now in full bloom after the recent addition of a new barber at the Garapan beauty parlor.

Francis Yecyec is the newest staff member at Pink Petals Beauty Salon and he comes with three years' experience as a professional barber at Bruno's Barbers at SM Southmall in Las Piñas in the Philippines.

The 43-year-old was also trained by no less than famed Filipino hairstylist Ricky Reyes in 2005 when he started developing his skills in haircutting.

At Pink Petals Beauty Salon, Yecyec is expected to unveil to



MARK RABAGO
Pink Petals Beauty Salon is located beside V-Lynn's BBQ along Dama de Noche St. in Garapan.



MARK RABAGO
Barber Francis Yecyec is raring to show off the latest haircut styles at Pink Petals Beauty Salon.



MARK RABAGO
From left, Pink Petals Beauty Salon barber Francis Yecyec, admin officer Jeferson Banciles, owners Reynaldo and Rizally Joson, and beautician Rollie James Tajos.

the island his different variety of haircut styles especially for men. Among them, short-trim haircuts, semi-tapered comb over, burst fade, medium fade, classic burst fade, barber cut comb over, Filipino-style fade, classic fade, high fade, low fade, taper fade, mid fade, scissor fade, and many more.

To celebrate the occasion, admin officer Jeferson Banciles said they will be having a 50% discount on all haircuts from \$12 to now just \$6.

The promotion will be for two consecutive weekends on April 15 and 16 and April 22 and 23.

» Unveils 50% off haircut promo

"We're doing this so that we can introduce our new barber, Mr. Yecyec, to this beautiful island for them to experience his variety of styling in terms of haircut expertise and we also serve free hot tea inside the premises," said Banciles.

Yecyec, who is from Tanusan, Muntinlupa City in the Philippines, will now join beauticians Rollie James Tajos and Rizel Naguiat.

Tajos was the beautician of choice for 2021 Miss Universe Philippines Top 50 Mytimyles Zaragoza, 2022 Miss Teen International Philippines candidate Cariza Nuel Finn Pono,

2022 Hari ng Pilipinas candidate and Bench model Ken DianDian, and 2021 Miss World Philippines candidate Aura Shaznay.

Pink Petals Beauty Salon also recently sponsored one of the candidates of Gandang Pinay 2023 when Tajos did Alianna Sublemente's hair and makeup.

Naguiat is a part-time beautician and has three years of experience in the cosmetology field in the Philippines before moving to Saipan.

As for how the beauty parlor has been faring since opening last December, Banciles added it's been a struggle but is happy that they're able to offer this service to the island community.

"Since we opened last January even though business is slightly slow, we received a lot of commendations from different individuals or cus-

tomers who have been totally satisfied with our service and we hope that they will continue patronizing Pink Petals Beauty Salon," he said.

Aside from haircut for both and women and makeup for children and adults for bridal, debut, birthday party, and for many more occasions, Pink Petals Beauty Salon also offers other services like nail spa, nail manicure and pedicure, blow dry, perming setting and permanent perming for small, medium, and long hair, hair treatment, hair rebond, brazilian or botox, hair bleaching, and hair coloring.

Pink Petals Beauty Salon is located beside V-Lynn's BBQ along Dama de Noche St. in Garapan. It is open from Tuesday to Sunday, 9am-6pm. For more information or to book an appointment, call (670) 285-8958.

Zelenskyy calls for confiscating Russian Central Bank funds

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an appeal to the heads of the IMF and World Bank, Ukraine's president on Wednesday renewed his call to confiscate Russian Central Bank assets held around the world and use them to help rebuild Ukraine.

"To charge the aggressor with compensation for damages," Ukrainian President

US urges meat companies to ensure they don't use child labor

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—The Biden administration is urging U.S. meat processors to make sure children aren't being illegally hired to perform dangerous jobs at their plants.

The call comes after an investigation found more than 100 kids working overnight for a company that cleans slaughterhouses, handling dangerous equipment like skull splitters and razor-sharp bone saws.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack sent a letter Wednesday

to the 18 largest meat and poultry producers urging them to examine the hiring practices at their companies and suppliers. The letter is part of a broader effort by the administration to crack down on the use of child labor. The Labor Department has reported a 69% increase since 2018 in the number of children being employed illegally in the U.S.

The U.S. announced at the start of Russia's invasion that America and its allies had blocked access to more than \$600 billion that Russia held outside its borders. The U.S. and its allies continue to impose rounds of targeted sanc-

US urges meat companies to ensure they don't use child labor

and companies must consider both their legal and moral responsibilities to ensure they and their suppliers, subcontractors, and vendors fully comply with child labor laws," Vilsack said in the letter.

Just last year, the Labor Department found that more than 3,800 children had been working illegally at 835 companies in various industries. In the most egregious recent case, Packers Sanitation Services Inc., or PSSI, agreed earlier this year to pay a \$1.5 million fine and

tions against companies and the wealthy elite with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"It must be clearly stated that the assets of the Russian Central Bank will be confiscated. It will be a peacemaking act on a global scale," Zelenskyy said.

He was patched in for a session with Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal,

US urges meat companies to ensure they don't use child labor

reform its hiring practices after investigators confirmed that at least 102 kids were working for the company at 13 meat processing plants nationwide.

PSSI, which is based in Wisconsin, employs about 17,000 people working at more than 700 locations, making it one of the largest food-processing-plant cleaning companies. The plants where PSSI was found to be employing minors were in Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Tennessee and Texas.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, World Bank President David Malpass and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, held during the IMF and World Bank spring meetings to discuss Ukraine's ongoing funding needs.

A joint assessment released in March by Ukraine's govern-

ment, the World Bank and European Commission estimates Ukraine's long-term recovery needs will total at least \$411 billion. In March, Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund agreed on a \$15.6 billion loan package aimed at shoring up the government's severely strained finances.

Since the war began in February 2022, the United States has given Ukraine more than \$100 billion in military and civilian support, which includes some money for reconstruction. Other countries also have provided Ukraine with substantial support.

At the roundtable, Yellen said "the United States will do what it takes to support Ukraine, for as long as it takes." She said "our historic multilateral sanctions coalition is restricting Russia's access to the technology and equipment it needs to supply its military."

Zelenskyy argued that liq-

uidating Russia's funds held around the world, including those of sanctioned oligarchs, would send a message to "potential aggressors" wherever they may be.

The idea is gaining traction. Former Biden administration official Daleep Singh told the Senate Banking Committee on Feb. 28 that forfeiting Russia's billions in assets held by the U.S. is "something we ought to pursue." And Charles Michel, president of the European Council, has called for using Russia's Central Bank funds to "rebuild what it has destroyed."

The U.S. announced last week that Treasury officials Liz Rosenberg and Brian Nelson — specialists in sanctions and terrorist financing — will travel to Europe this month to meet with leaders of financial institutions in Switzerland, Italy and Germany. They plan to share intelligence on potential sanctions evaders and to warn of the potential penalties for failure to comply with international sanctions.

Nation

Trump set to give 2nd deposition in NY fraud lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President Donald Trump was expected to visit the offices of New York’s attorney general Thursday for his second deposition in a legal battle over his company’s business practices.

The Republican was scheduled to meet with lawyers for Attorney General Letitia James, who sued Trump last year. Her lawsuit claims Trump and his family misled banks and business associates by giving them false information about his net worth and the value of assets such as hotels and golf courses.

States confront medical debt that’s bankrupting millions

DENVER (AP)—Cindy Powers was driven into bankruptcy by 19 life-saving abdominal operations. Medical debt started stacking up for Lindsey Vance after she crashed her skateboard and had to get nine stitches in her chin. And for Misty Castaneda, open heart surgery for a disease she’d had since birth saddled her with \$200,000 in bills.

These are three of an estimated 100 million Americans who have amassed nearly \$200 billion in collective medical debt—almost the size of Greece’s economy—according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Now lawmakers in at least a dozen states and the U.S. Congress have pushed legislation to curtail the financial burden that’s pushed many into untenable situations: forgoing needed care for fear of added debt, taking a second mortgage to pay for cancer treatment or slashing grocery budgets to keep up with payments.

Some of the bills would create medical debt relief programs or protect personal property from collections, while

others would lower interest rates, keep medical debt from tanking credit scores or require greater transparency in the costs of care.

In Colorado, House lawmakers approved a measure Wednesday that would lower the maximum interest rate for medical debt to 3%, require greater transparency in costs of treatment and prohibit debt collection during an appeals process.

If it became law, Colorado would join Arizona in having one of the lowest medical debt interest rates in the country. North Carolina lawmakers have also started mulling a 5% interest ceiling.

But there are opponents. Colorado Republican state Sen. Janice Rich said she worried that the proposal could “constrain hospitals’ debt collecting ability and hurt their cash flow.”

For patients, medical debt has become a leading cause of personal bankruptcy, with an estimated \$88 billion of that debt in collections nationwide, according to the Consumer Finan-

cial Protection Bureau. Roughly 530,000 people reported falling into bankruptcy annually due partly to medical bills and time away from work, according to a 2019 study from the American Journal of Public Health.

Powers’ family ended up owing \$250,000 for the 19 life-saving abdominal surgeries. They declared bankruptcy in 2009, then the bank foreclosed on their home.

“Only recently have we begun to pick up the pieces,” said James Powers, Cindy’s husband, during his February testimony in favor of Colorado’s bill.

In Pennsylvania and Arizona, lawmakers are considering medical debt relief programs that would use state funds to help eradicate debt for residents. A New Jersey proposal would use federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to achieve the same end.

Bills in Florida and Massachusetts would protect some personal property — such as a car that is needed for work — from medical debt collections and force providers to be

doing anything wrong. James declined to answer a question about the planned deposition at a news conference on an unrelated matter Wednesday.

Trump previously met with James’ lawyers Aug. 10, but refused to answer all but a few procedural questions, invoking his Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination more than 400 times.

“Anyone in my position not taking the Fifth Amendment would be a fool, an absolute fool,” he said in the session, which was recorded on video and later released publicly. Trump predicted a “renegade” prosecutor would try to make a criminal case out of his an-

swers, if he gave them. “One statement or answer that is ever so slightly off, just ever so slightly, by accident, by mistake, such as it was a sunny, beautiful day, when actually it was slightly overcast, would be met by law enforcement at a level seldom seen in this country, because I’ve experienced it,” he said.

Castaneda, who was born with a congenital heart defect, found herself \$200,000 in debt when she was 23 and had to have surgery. The debt tanked her credit score and, she said, forced her to rely on her emotionally abusive husband’s credit.

For over a decade Castaneda wanted out of the relationship, but everything they owned was in her husband’s name, making it nearly impossible to break away. She finally divorced her husband in 2017.

“I’m trying to play catch-up for the last 20 years,” said Castaneda, 45, a hairstylist from Grand Junction on Colorado’s Western Slope.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)

Oversee and supervise overall daily operations of the company; Set a strategic plan for productivity and sales targets and ensure the company meets such targets; Develop and implement strategic operational and sales plan that expands the company’s customer base; Develop and implement strategic operational and sales plan that expands company’s customer base; Anticipate and track operational and tactical risks inherent in the business and provide strategic solutions; Assess and analyze budgets and on-going business projects to find ways to minimize expenses and optimize profits.

Requires High School Diploma and 24 months of experience as General Manager, Operations Manager, or General Affairs Manager.

Send Resume & Transcript to Wing Corporation.
ATTN: Hyeyoung KIM, P.O.BOX 10003 PMB 586, Saipan, MP 96950.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

McKinley Care Assisted Living, Anchorage Alaska seeks experienced caregivers. \$16-20/ hour base pay. Flight to Alaska paid. Housing assistance provided. Call 907-531-6078 or email Shaw Reyes at shaw@mckinley.care.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 50 1055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BACKUP POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the upgrade of the airport’s backup power system at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA’s Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA’s Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA’s Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, April 21, 2023.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 20, 2023



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|---|
| I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Correspondence | VI. Old Business
A. CHCC’s Current Billing and Arrears
B. Settlement Agreement and Release Agreement - NMI Superior Court 11-0114, NMI Retirement Fund vs. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation |
| II. Election of Officers | VII. New Business
A. Board Organizational Chart
B. Proposed FY 2024 Budget |
| III. Adoption of Minutes
1. May 5, 2022, Regular Board Meeting
2. March 21, 2023 Special Board Meeting | VIII. Public Comments** |
| IV. Management Reports
A. Executive Director’s Report
B. Chief Financial Officer’s Report
C. Legal Counsel’s Report | IX. Executive Session***
X. Announcements
XI. Adjournment |
| V. Committee Reports | |

/s/
JANICE A. TENORIO, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEM

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

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INVITATION FOR BID

CPA-IFB-002-23

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR AND MOWER TO BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for the procurement and delivery of one Tractor & Mower for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona, Rota International Airport.

The Bid Package may be picked up beginning March 14, 2023 at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of \$100.00 in cash, cashier’s check, or credit card.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package: “Bid: Tractor/Mower for the Rota International Airport-CPA-IFB-002-23. CONFIDENTIAL”

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, not later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, April 14, 2023. Bid opening will be at 3:00 p.m. same day at the Procurement Department, 2nd Floor—Departure Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this IFB, the Tractor Mower and its Specifications shall be in writing and emailed to sharlene.manglona@cnmports.com (Rota Ports Manager) with copy to atudela@cnmports.com (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) no later than April 3, 2023. Any question or clarification will not be entertained after this date. Answers to questions and/or clarifications will be provided to each vendor or individual receiving a bid package.

Bids received after the above closing date and time of this Invitation for Bid will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in its opinion to do so is in CPA’s best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Executive Director

Date _____

Asia

N. Korea fires ICBM that may have been new type of weapon

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Thursday conducted its first intercontinental ballistic missile launch in a month, possibly testing a new type of more mobile, harder-to-detect weapons system, its neighbors said, in an extension of the North's provocative run of missile tests.

The launch prompted Japan to issue an evacuation order on a northern island, and though it was later retracted, it shows the vigilance of North Korea's neighbors over its evolving missile threats.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile launched on a high angle from near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and fell in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan following a 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) flight.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff described the missile as having a medium or longer range. The United States National Security Council called it a long-range missile and Japan's defense minister an ICBM-class weapon.

South Korea's military be-

lieves North Korea launched a new type of ballistic missile, possibly using solid fuel, a defense official said under anonymity because of office rules.

If the launch involved a solid-fuel ICBM, it would be the North's first test of such a weapon. North Korea's known ICBMs all use liquid propellant systems that require them to be fueled before launches. But the fuel in a solid propellant weapon is already loaded inside, allowing them to be moved more easily and fired more quickly.

A solid-propellant ICBM is one of the key high-tech weapons that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to build to better cope with what he calls U.S. military threats. Other weapons he wants to acquire are a multiwarhead missile, a nuclear-powered submarine, a hypersonic missile and a spy satellite.

Kim Dong-yub, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said the launch may have involved a new intermediate- or long-range missile powered by solid propellants, or be linked to North Korean preparation to

launch a spy satellite.

U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said the latest launch "needlessly raises tensions and risks destabilizing the security situation in the region." Watson said the United States will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the American homeland and South Korean and Japanese allies.

During an emergency National Security Council meeting in Seoul, officials condemned the launch and stressed the need to tighten three-way security cooperation with Washington and Tokyo. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held a Japanese NSC meeting to analyze the missile as well as Japan's response to it.

The top nuclear envoys of Seoul, Washington and Tokyo held a telephone conversation where they called for a "decisive and united international response" to North Korean provocations and stronger efforts to stem illicit North Korean activities that allegedly fund its weapons program.

China warns as US, Philippines stage combat drills

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China warned on Wednesday that a deepening security alliance between the United States and the Philippines should not harm its security and territorial interests and interfere in long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

When asked to comment on the combat exercises between American and Filipino forces that started on Tuesday in the Philippines, the Chinese Embassy in Manila on Wednesday issued a statement by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, who said that such drills "should not target any third party and should be conducive to regional peace and stability."

Wang did not say how China would respond if it concludes that the U.S.-Philippine security cooperation was hurting Beijing's core interests.

In Washington, the U.S. and Philippine defense and foreign secretaries met on Tuesday to discuss the development of nine Philippine military camps, where American forces have been allowed to stay indefinitely under the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

"These sites will support combined training exercises

and interoperability between our forces to ensure that we're even better prepared for future crises," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said. He added the U.S. was allocating more than \$100 million to build infrastructure at the sites, where Americans would be stationed.

China has strongly opposed that agreement, which would allow American forces to establish military staging grounds and surveillance outposts in the northern Philippines across the sea from the Taiwan Strait and in western Philippine provinces facing the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety on historical grounds. Washington disputes China's claims.

Austin said he also discussed with his Philippine counterpart, Carlito Galvez, the U.S. delivery of much-needed defense equipment, including radars, unmanned aerial systems, military transport aircraft and coastal and air defense systems to Philippines over the next five to 10 years under a security assistance roadmap.

This year's Balikatan exercises between the treaty allies are the largest since the two sides started joint military combat-readiness exercises in the early 1990s. They will run until April 28 and involve more than

17,600 American and Filipino personnel and a small Australian contingent. About a dozen countries including Japan and India but not China were sending observers, organizers said.

In a live-fire drill the allies will stage for the first time, U.S. and Filipino forces will sink a ship in Philippine territorial waters off western Zambales province on April 26 in a coordinated coastal artillery bombardment and airstrike, Col. Michael Logico, a Philippine spokesman for Balikatan, told reporters on Tuesday.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has been briefed about the live-fire drill and plans to watch it, Logico said.

In Palawan, which faces the South China Sea, the exercises will involve beach assaults and retaking an island seized by enemy forces, Logico said.

Marcos, who took office in June last year, has nurtured closer relations with Washington than his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, who often lashed out at U.S. security policies while praising China and Russia. Duterte tried to abrogate a key defense pact that would have restrained American forces from entering the Philippines for large-scale war drills but later backpedaled from the effort.

World

Ukraine's outrage grows after video seems to show beheading



AP
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy holds a speech during his visit to Warsaw, Poland, April 5, 2023. Ukraine is promising to investigate a gruesome video circulating on social media that purportedly shows the beheading of a Ukrainian soldier.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine launched an investigation Wednesday into a gruesome video that purportedly shows the beheading of a Ukrainian soldier, in the latest accusation of atrocities said to have been committed by Russia since it invaded in February 2022.

The video spread quickly online and drew outrage from officials in Kyiv, including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as well as international organizations. The Kremlin called the footage "horrible" but said it needed to be verified.

The Associated Press was not able to independently verify the authenticity of the video or the circumstances of where and when it was shot. The AP is not distributing the video or using frame grabs due to its extremely graphic nature.

Meanwhile, a Russian

defense official claimed that fighters from Russia's paramilitary Wagner group have seized three districts of Bakhmut, the embattled city that for months has been the focus of Moscow's grinding campaign in the east.

The video circulating online appears to show a man in green fatigues wearing a yellow armband, typically donned by Ukrainian fighters. His screams are heard before another man in camouflage uses a knife to decapitate him.

A third man holds up a flak jacket apparently belonging to the man being beheaded. All three men speak in Russian.

Since Russia's forces invaded on Feb. 24, 2022, they have committed widespread abuses and alleged war crimes, according to the United Nations, rights groups and reporting by The Associated Press. Ukraine has repeatedly accused Rus-

sia of targeting apartment buildings and other civilian structures and equipment in its strikes, and images of hundreds of dead civilians in the streets and in mass graves in Bucha after Russian forces withdrew from the city have horrified the world.

The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

The Kremlin denies it has committed war crimes or that it has targeted civilians.

Ukrainian troops have also been accused of abuses, and last year Kyiv said it would investigate video circulating online that Moscow alleged showed Ukrainian forces killing Russian troops who may have been trying to surrender.

US, Ukraine say many war secrets safe from intel leaks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ukraine's leaders say they don't see a major U.S. intelligence leak as gravely damaging future offensives. A key reason: They have long held back on sharing their most sensitive operational information, doubting Washington's ability to keep their secrets safe.

Ukrainian and U.S. officials said this week that only Ukrainians know some battle plans and other operational information, not the Americans, their most important ally. That means the leak of secret military documents, including some assessing Ukraine's battlefield strengths and weaknesses against Russia, may not have been enough — so far — to change the course of the war.

"If military operations are planned, then only a very

narrow circle of people know about the planning of the special operation," Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said Wednesday on Ukrainian television. "The risk of leaks is very minimal" for the most important war matters.

Still, the U.S. sees the leaks as grave. The documents include previously unreported sensitive disclosures about Ukraine, South Korea, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and others. Senior Biden administration officials are working to stop the flow of classified information onto social media and websites and head off any lasting damage to relationships with allies and strategic partners.

And more damaging material could still surface. Leaked documents are continuing to appear online, and future revelations may be

more detrimental to Ukraine than the ones that have been publicized so far.

Meanwhile, Russia is making clear that it is avidly studying each spilled secret. "Quite interesting," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said of the leaks.

Still, online Russian-language discussions groups showed Russian military bloggers arguing over whether the leaks themselves are U.S. disinformation, intended to mislead Russia by creating an impression that Ukraine's military is vulnerable.

Ukrainian officials and ordinary Ukrainians have made clear they could afford no open split over the leaks with the United States, which has given Ukraine more than \$100 billion in military and civilian support.

Off The Wall

Pet arrives home, dog-tired, after Alaskan sea-ice odyssey

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A 1-year-old Australian shepherd took an epic trek across 150 miles (241 kilometers) of frozen Bering Sea ice that included being bitten by a seal or polar bear before he was safely returned to his home in Alaska.

Mandy Iworrigan, Nanuq's owner who lives in Gambell, Alaska, and her family were visiting Savoonga, another St. Lawrence Island community in the Bering Strait, last month when Nanuq disappeared with their other family dog, Starlight, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

Starlight turned up a few weeks later, but Nanuq, which means polar bear in Siberian Yupik, was nowhere to be found.



In this photo provided by Mandy Iworrigan is Nanuq, in the middle with Brooklyn Faith, after the 1-year-old Australian shepherd was returned to Gambell, Alaska, on April 6, 2023, after it disappeared for a month and walked on the Bering Sea ice 150 miles to Wales, Alaska. On the left is Zoey with Starlight and on the right is Ty with Kujo.

About a month after Nanuq disappeared, people in Wales, 150 miles (241 kilometers) northeast of Savoonga on Alaska's western coast, began posting pictures online of what they described as a lost dog.

"My dad texted me and said, 'There's a dog that looks like Nanuq in Wales,'" Iworrigan said.

She reactivated her Facebook account to see if it might be her wandering hound.

"I was like, 'No freakin' way! That's our dog! What is he doing in Wales?'" she said.

The events of Nanuq's journey will likely always be a mystery.

"I have no idea why he ended up in Wales. Maybe the ice shifted while he was hunting," Iworrigan said. "I'm pretty

sure he ate leftovers of seal or caught a seal. Probably birds, too. He eats our Native foods. He's smart."

She used airline points to get her dog back to Gambell on a regional air carrier last week, a charter that was transporting athletes for the Bering Strait School District's Native Youth Olympics tournament.

Iworrigan filmed the happy reunion when the plane landed at the air strip in Savoonga, with both she and her daughter Brooklyn shrieking with joy.

Except for a swollen leg, with large bite marks from an unidentified animal, Nanuq was in pretty good health.

"Wolverine, seal, small nanuq, we don't know, because it's like a really big bite," she said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Germany: 'Uncooperative' squirrel freed from manhole cover

BERLIN (AP)—Firefighters say they have freed an "uncooperative" squirrel that was stuck in a manhole cover in western Germany—echoing a similar incident that happened in the same city four years ago. The Dortmund fire department said it was alerted to a distressed red squirrel by a pedestrian Monday afternoon, after she spotted its head peering out of a hole in the road. The woman covered it with a scarf to calm it down before calling for help. A crew of firefighters who arrived at the scene carefully removed the manhole cover and tried to free the rodent. "This turned out to be quite complicated as the squirrel was uncooperative," the fire department said. After further attempts the crew was able to extract the animal unharmed and it vanished up a nearby tree.

Officer Cottontail? Bunny joins police force. Fur real.

YUBA CITY, Calif. (AP)—Meet Percy, the police rabbit. Yes, that's fur real. Some bunny—also known as Officer Ashley Carson—found a lost rabbit last year in the middle of Percy Avenue in Yuba City, California. Carson scurried back to the police station and handed the rabbit over to animal control, who could find neither hide nor hare of the bunny's family. In a happy ending, a police services analyst adopted the allegedly "docile and friendly" animal and named him Percy. The Yuba City Police Department—about 40 hopping miles (64.37 kilometers) north of Sacramento—announced the rabbit's promotion to the rank of "wellness officer" just days before Easter Sunday. "Officer Percy lounges at the police

department during the day and is a support animal for all," the department wrote on Facebook Wednesday. The Easter Bunny could not be reached for comment. Case closed.

Missing porcupine Brain returns to zoo, Pinky still missing

BERLIN (AP)—Police said Tuesday that one of two porcupines that went missing from a zoo in central Germany over the weekend has somehow found its way back home. State police in Saxony-Anhalt had called Sunday for the public to keep an eye out for the two Indian crested porcupines, called Pinky and Brain, after they were apparently stolen from an animal

park in the town of Thale. German news agency dpa quoted police as saying the exact circumstances of their disappearance were still being investigated, but there was no way the porcupines could have escaped on their own. Police also expressed hope that Pinky might be found soon, after a hiker reported seeing the animal about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the zoo. The porcupines are named after the characters in a popular cartoon series in which two lab mice try to take over the world, with little success.

German officials seize cooked bats near Belgian border


BERLIN (AP)—German of-

ficials seized cooked bats and nearly a ton of unrefrigerated fish after police stopped a van that had entered the country from Belgium, authorities said Wednesday. Federal police said a patrol on Monday stopped the vehicle at a highway exit on the edge of the border city of Aachen, and found the bats under the fish. A vet from the local

consumer protection office was sent to the scene and ordered the bats and fish confiscated. Police seized the van, which was uninsured. The 31-year-old driver, an Ivorian citizen, faced a criminal complaint for traffic offenses and unauthorized entry because he entered the country without papers or a driver's license, police said in a state-

ment. He also faces administrative proceedings for violations of food hygiene rules, and local authorities were looking into whether he violated conservation laws relating to the bats. A court in Aachen on Tuesday ordered the driver held in custody pending his handover to authorities in Italy, where he was registered as living.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



† **Gonzalo Marcelo Dlg. Pangelinan**

April 9, 1947 – April 6, 2023

He now joins +Andrew Manuel J. Pangelinan

Survived by his wife, Priscilla J. Pangelinan, and son, Marvin Anthony J. Pangelinan/Mightee, and children (Dani and Oliver)

San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm and Rosary at 7:00 pm.
Mass is also held at Mount Carmel at 6:00 am.
Burial Day is on April 17, 2023 at 10:00 am at Mt. Carmel Church.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

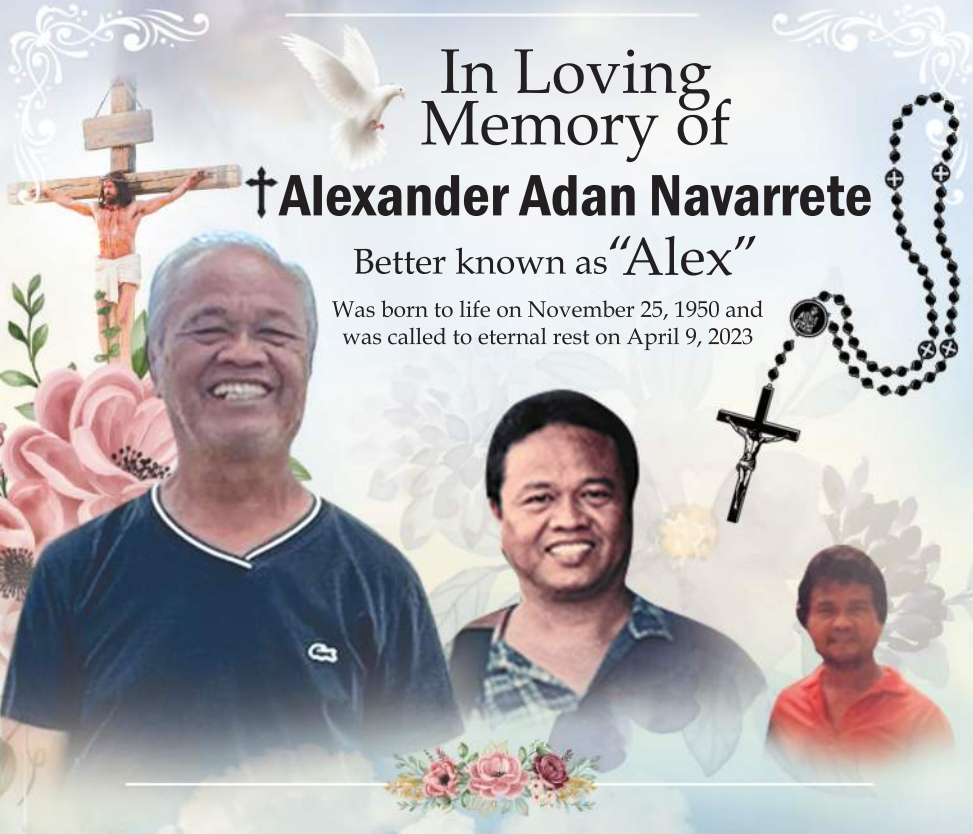
From The Family

In Loving Memory of

† **Alexander Adan Navarrete**

Better known as "Alex"

Was born to life on November 25, 1950 and was called to eternal rest on April 9, 2023



Daily Mass of Intentions are being offered nightly at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, April 17, 2023 at San Antonio Church. Responso will begin at 8:00am followed by public viewing and mass at 10:00am. A private burial will be held at a later date where he will be laid peacefully to rest.

Our family is eternally grateful for all the kind words of condolences and acts of kindness.

Anne Marie Navarrete and Family

Science & Technology

Space race! Meteorites hit Maine, museum offers \$25K reward

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Somewhere in a remote stretch of forest near Maine's border with Canada, rocks from space crashed to Earth and may be scattered across the ground—just waiting to be picked up.

If you're the first person to find a big one, a museum says it'll pay out a \$25,000 reward.

The unusually bright fireball could be seen in broad daylight around noon Saturday, said Darryl Pitt, chair of the meteorite division at the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel.

NASA says four radar sweeps detected "signatures consistent with falling meteorites seen at the time and location reported by eyewitnesses," and people also heard sonic booms. It's the first time radar spotted a meteorite fall in Maine, the space agency said.

The Maine Mineral and Gem Museum wants to add to its collection, which includes moon and Mars rocks, Pitt said, so the first meteorite hunters to deliver a 1-kilogram (2.2-pound) specimen will claim the \$25,000 prize. That could be about the size of a softball.

"With more people having an awareness, the more people will look—and the greater the likelihood of a recovery," Pitt said Wednesday.

Pitt said that because the descent was spotted by radar, he's confident meteorites can be found on the ground.

Still, there's no guarantee there are any meteorites big enough to claim the payout.

NASA said on its website that the "meteorite masses calculated from the radar signatures range from 1.59g (0.004 pounds) to 322g (0.7 pounds) although larger masses may have fallen."

The meteorites likely impacted across a swath of ground spanning from the town of Waite, Maine, to Canoose, New Brunswick. According to NASA, the largest specimens

will be strewn at the west end of the debris field, closest to Waite—about a 3 1/2 hour drive from Portland.

Locating a softball-sized space rock in the wilderness may be similar to finding a needle in a haystack: Pitt said the estimated area where the meteorites hit is about a mile wide (1.6 km) and stretches for 10-12 miles (16-19 km), all the way into Canada.

The museum is asking aspiring meteorite hunters to brush

up on what meteorites look like before searching, so they know what they're looking for, and avoid private property unless they have permission.

The museum has an extensive collection of specimens, including the largest intact Mars rock on Earth.

Pitt said the museum is also looking to purchase any other specimens found by meteorite hunters. He said the specimens "could easily be worth their weight in gold."

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City officials unveiled three new high-tech policing devices Tuesday, including a robotic dog that critics called creepy when it first joined the police pack 2 1/2 years ago.

The new devices, which also include a GPS tracker for stolen cars and a cone-shaped security robot, will be rolled out in a manner that is "transparent, consistent and always done in close collaboration with the people we serve," said police Commissioner Keechant Sewell, who joined Mayor Eric Adams and other officials at a Times Square press conference where the security robot and the mechanical canine nicknamed Digidog were displayed.

RoboCop? No, RoboDog: Robotic dog rejoins New York police

"Digidog is out of the pound," said Adams, a Democrat and former police officer. "Digidog is now part of the toolkit that we are using."

The city's first robot police dog was leased in 2020 by Adams' predecessor, former Mayor Bill de Blasio, but the city's contract for the device was cut short after critics derided it as creepy and dystopian.

Adams said he won't bow to anti-robot dog pressure.

"A few loud people were opposed to it and we took a step back," the mayor said. "That is not how I operate. I operate on looking at what's best for the city."

Adams said the remote-controlled, 70-pound (32-kilogram) Digidog will be deployed in risky situations like hostage standoffs starting this summer.

"If you have a barricaded suspect, if you have someone that's inside a building that is armed, instead of sending police in there, you send Digidog in there," he said. "So these are smart ways of using good technologies."

The tracking system called StarChase will allow police to launch a GPS tag that will attach itself to a stolen car so that officers can track the vehicle's location. The New York Police Department's pilot program for

using the system will last 90 days, officials said.

The Autonomous Security

Robot, which Adams compared to a Roomba, will be deployed inside the Times Square subway

station in a seven-month pilot program starting this summer, police officials said.



Science Matters

Taken by the Webb Space Telescope

A new image: sun-lit Uranus

Bright, new images of the ice giant Uranus – the second-most distant planet from the sun – show features never seen before

Mass of Uranus may mostly be a dense fluid of icy water, methane and ammonia, lying over a small rocky core

The Uranus system

Webb image shows six of Uranus' 27 known moons (most are small and faint)

Titania, Oberon, Ariel, Umbriel, Puck, Miranda

13 known rings (new image shows 11)

POLAR CAP: A feature unique to Uranus, atmosphere brighter over the pole facing the sun

Strange orientation

Rotates on its side, turned about 90 degrees from the plane of its orbit

Orbits the sun every 94 years

Each of its poles is directly lit once an orbit, then half an orbit later it is totally dark, facing out into space

Pole faces sun **That same pole is dark**

SUN

URANUS' ORBIT

© 2023 TNS
Source: Space Telescope Science Institute, European Space Agency, NASA
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

NPR quits Elon Musk's Twitter over 'government-funded' label

By MATT O'BRIEN

AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

National Public Radio is quitting Twitter after the social media platform owned by Elon Musk stamped NPR's account with labels the news organization says are intended to undermine its credibility.

Twitter labeled NPR's main account last week as "state-affiliated media," a term also used to identify media outlets controlled or heavily influenced by authoritarian governments, such as Russia and China. Twitter later changed the label to "government-funded media," but to NPR—which relies on the government for a tiny fraction of its funding—it's still misleading.

NPR said in a statement Wednesday that it "will no longer be active on Twitter because the platform is taking actions that undermine our credibility by falsely implying that we are not editorially independent."

"Defund @NPR," was Musk's tweeted response. His latest tiff with a news organization reflects a gamble for the social media platform he bought last year.

Twitter, more than any of its rivals, has said its users come



The headquarters for National Public Radio (NPR) stands on North Capitol Street on April 15, 2013, in Washington.

to it to keep track of current events. That made it an attractive place for news outlets to share their stories and reinforced Twitter's moves to combat the spread of misinformation. But Musk has long expressed disdain for professional journalists and said he wants to elevate the views and expertise of the "average citizen."

The Public Broadcasting Service said Wednesday it has also stopped tweeting from its main account and that the public TV organization has no plans to resume because "Twitter's simplistic label leaves the inaccurate impres-

sion that PBS is wholly funded by the federal government."

Media analysts say growing friction between Twitter and news organizations since Musk bought the platform is bad for Twitter, and bad for the public.

"It's a shame to have proceeded in a direction where, intentionally or otherwise, Twitter is categorizing Russian propaganda outlets in a similar way to very legitimate news sources that get a very modest amount of funding from the U.S. government," said Paul Barrett, deputy director of the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights.

Life & Style

French investigative site claims Depardieu groped extras

PARIS (AP)—A French investigative news website claims that actor Gérard Depardieu has been accused of harassing, groping or sexually assaulting 13 young women, mainly extras.

Most of the claims reported by the Mediapart website relate to film shoots between 2004 and 2022.

None of the women has filed a complaint. Depardieu himself has denied any criminal behavior.

Depardieu, 74, is among France's most well-known stars. He was placed under investigation in December 2020 for rape and sexual assault, reportedly at his Paris home, following claims by an actress in 2018. The investigation is ongoing.

Mediapart, which is regarded as a reliable website, published the accusations in an article on Tuesday. They feed into the



Depardieu

long-standing stereotype of an industry full of dirty secrets where silence is golden.

The incidents allegedly took place in public places, mainly on film sets.

In a Manhattan cabaret for the filming of the 2015 movie "Big House," Depardieu allegedly tried to fondle three non-French extras. One of them, then aged 24, recounted to Mediapart, "I felt his fingers trying

to slip in to get to my knickers."

The wardrobe assistant for the 2015 movie "Big House," Isabel Butel, told Mediapart of her shock at the reaction on set. "It was kind of 'Oh that's Gérard, he's a bit mischievous!'" she was quoted as saying.

Another extra, identified as Hélène Darras, then 26, went to the police last year, 14 years after Depardieu allegedly kept grabbing her buttocks during filming of the 2008 comedy "Disco." Darras stayed silent at

the time, not wanting to "make an enemy of casting directors." She eventually gave her ac-

count to police because "the film world is full of Gérards and we have to speak up," she said.

Prince Harry will attend father's coronation, but Meghan won't

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry will attend his father's coronation, Buckingham Palace said Wednesday, ending months of speculation about whether the prince would be welcome after leveling charges of racism and media manipulation at the royal family.

His wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, will remain at the couple's home in Southern California with their two young children, Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet, the palace said. A nearly identical statement from the Sussex's representatives confirmed the news.

The May 6 date of the coronation at Westminster Abbey coincides with their son's birthday.

While the announcement should silence the "will he or won't he" debate in the British media, it won't end the royal soap opera swirling around Harry and Meghan as King Charles III prepares for his coronation.

When the prince attended the funerals of his grandfather, Prince Philip, and his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, commentators discussed everything from whether Harry would be allowed to wear his military uniform to exactly where he was seated. And there is always the question of whether he will meet face-to-face with his father and older brother, Prince William.

New streaming app to 'Max' programming from HBO, Discovery

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Warner Bros. Discovery unveiled a streaming service Wednesday combining iconic HBO programming such as "The Sopranos" with a mix of unscripted TV series in a push to reap more subscribers from what so far has been a muddled media merger.

The \$16-per-month service, called Max, will be released May 23 in the U.S. and automatically replace the company's existing HBO Max service in what is being promised as a seamless transition. Max will gradually become available in the rest of the world, with Latin America next up on the slate.

The existing Discovery Plus app featuring reality and unscripted series such as "Fixer Upper" and "Naked and Afraid" from a collection of TV networks will continue to be offered. That's even as all that programming is made available within the new Max app, which will be marketed with the tagline

"The One To Watch."

The transition comes a year after the completion of a roughly \$43 billion deal that spun off the AT&T's WarnerMedia Division that includes HBO, CNN and TBS into Discovery, whose stable includes the TLC, HGTV, Magnolia and Food networks.

Mario, Mariah, Madonna added to National Recording Registry

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mario, Madonna and Mariah have entered the national audio canon.

Madonna's star-making 1984 album "Like a Virgin," Mariah Carey's 1994 holiday perennial "All I Want For Christmas Is You" and the original 1985 theme from Super Mario Bros. are now in the U.S. National Recording Registry as part of "the defining sounds of the nation's history and culture," the Library of Congress announced Wednesday.

In all, 25 albums, singles and other sound artifacts spanning more than a century are being inducted into the registry, from the first known re-



AP
Mariah Carey performs a benefit for the Fresh Air Fund at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York on Dec. 8, 1994, left, and Madonna performs as she opened her Virgin tour in Seattle, on April 10, 1985.

cording of mariachi music in 1908 and 1909 by Cuarteto Coculense, to 2012's "Con-

certo for Clarinet and Chamber Orchestra" by composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich.

The Super Mario Bros. music, officially known as the "Ground Theme," written by young Nintendo composer Koji Kondo, becomes the first music from a video game to enter the registry, which called it in a news release "the most recognizable video game theme in history." The tune has appeared in countless Mario-related incarnations, including in the new megahit "Super Mario Bros. Movie."

Queen Latifah becomes the first female rapper with a recording in the registry with the inclusion of her 1989 album "All Hail the Queen," whose songs include the feminist anthem "Ladies First."

Posthumous Kenny Rogers album will feature some unreleased songs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Previously unreleased songs recorded by the late country superstar Kenny Rogers will be on a new record coming out in June.

After a career spanning jazz, rock, country and pop, the Grammy-winning balladeer nicknamed "The Gambler" died at the age of 81 in 2020. His widow, Wanda Rogers, curated the posthumous record called "Life is Like a Song," coming out June 2 on UMe.

The recordings were made between 2008 and 2011 and includes originals and covers

like Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight" and "At Last," made famous by Etta James, which will be on a deluxe version of the record. The album will also include two previously released songs, his duet with Dolly Parton, "Tell Me That You Love Me," and "Goodbye," written by Lionel Richie, both released in 2009, but never digitally.

The Country Music Hall of Famer had a thriving career for some 60 years with such hits as "Lucille," "Lady" and "Islands in the Stream," a beloved Parton-Rogers duet.

Mom's unwelcome comments about ink need to dry up

DEAR ABBY: I am tattooed. I have 11 spread over my body. I grew up with strict rules. My mom always said no piercings (other than ears) or tattoos while I was under her roof. I got my first tattoo at 22 while away at college. I had to tell her about it because of a family beach vacation. She was disappointed. I have continued to get inked throughout my life. Every time she noticed a new tat, she voiced a negative opinion.

We live in different states now, so the subject of my tattoos hasn't come up lately. A year ago, she was here to visit and didn't say one word about my ink. I'm planning to have more work done this summer and I'm afraid that when she visits, she'll be critical of me again, even though I'm 32, have an above-minimum-wage job, and my husband and I own our own home. What can I do or say to get her to keep her comments at bay?

TATTED IN INDIANA

DEAR TATTED: What you say to your mother is, "You know I love you, Mom. Thank you for the beautiful body you gave me. I'm sorry you are disappointed with what I have done with it, but in the future please keep your negative comments to yourself because they are hurtful."

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm engaged to marry the love of my life. We've known each other since we were school-age (we are now 50). It will be a second marriage for both of us. He is unaware

that I have access to his Facebook account and can see that he looks up his ex about once a week. They have been divorced for three years. It bothers me, but I'm hesitant to say anything because I would have to reveal how I know. I absolutely know he loves me and is in love with me. What do I do?

PERTURBED IN TEXAS

DEAR PERTURBED: I can understand why you are bothered. Successful relationships—marriages in particular—are built on trust and honest communication, both of which appear to be absent in this love story. If you "absolutely know" your fiance loves you, why have you been monitoring his online activities? I think it's time for full disclosure. Tell him why you felt the need to snoop on him and ask him why he feels the need to check on what his ex is doing. It could be simple curiosity, but if it's more than that, you are entitled to know.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Oftentimes, we like to pay our restaurant check with cash. So our server won't mistake our intention, we place the money inside the folder with the ends of the cash exposed. More often than not, when the server picks up the folder she or he will say: "Do you need change?" We think asking this question is tacky, and we would prefer something like: "I'll be right back with your change." My Scottish heritage wants to say: "Every penny!" but good manners prevents that. In some instances, we do leave a tip added on to the bill and don't want

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



change—in which case we say: "No thank you, the change is yours." What is your response when the server says: "Do you need any change?"

ASSUMING IN ARIZONA

DEAR ASSUMING: My response would be to smile and say, "Yes, please," if I didn't want my server to keep it, which is rare.

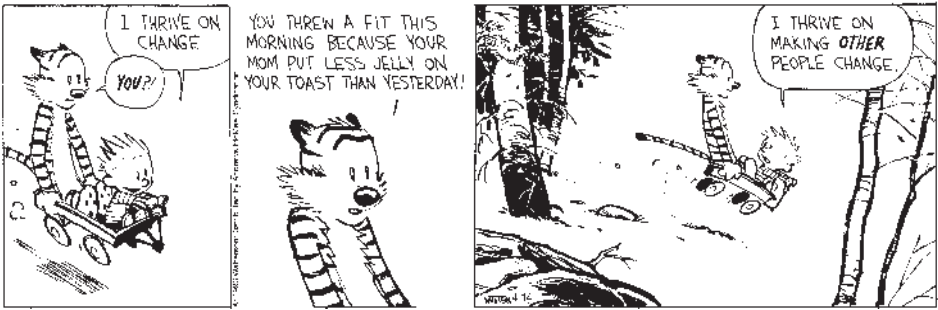
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



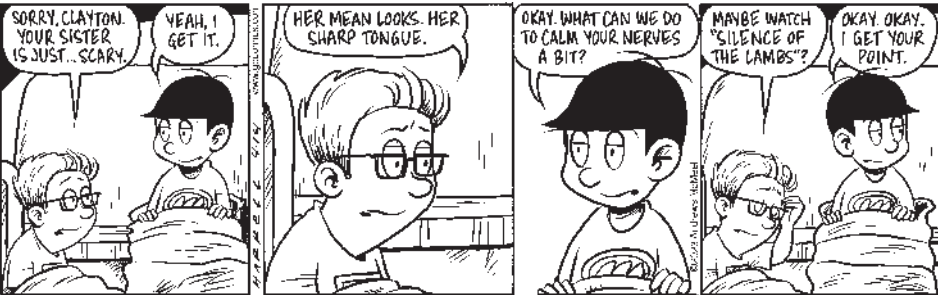
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



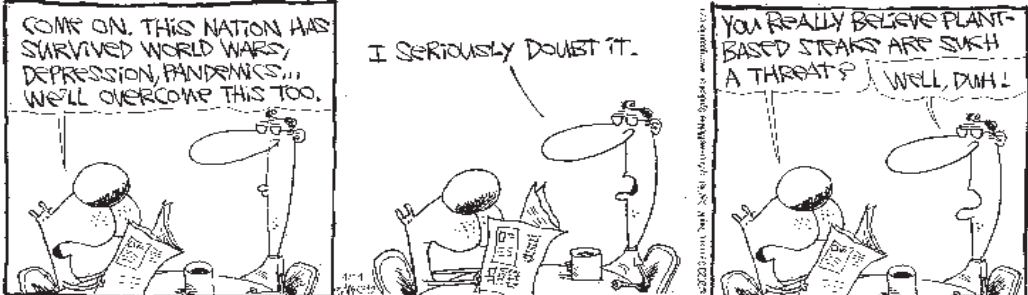
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Con-ducted

4 With (Fr.)

8 Dumb-struck

12 Shapiro of NPR

13 Narc's measure

14 Overdue

15 Passage-way

17 Celtic tongue

18 Will subject

19 Half dozen

21 Eastern "way"

22 Mideast peninsula

26 Jazz great Davis

29 Bio stat

30 D-Day vessel

31 Latin I word

32 "Evita" narrator

33 Rich soil

34 "Tasty!"

35 Extinct New Zealand bird

36 Poker pair

37 Seem

39 More (Sp.)

40 Sports-caster Scully

41 Promise

45 Notion

48 PFC's superior

50 Campus area

51 Gar-field's pal

52 601, to Nero

53 Fill up

54 Endure

55 Luau instrument

2 Cupid's alias

3 Grime

4 Japanese dogs

5 YouTube offering

6 "Evil Woman" band

7 Prom

8 Amazon's virtual assistant

9 — of 1812

10 UFO

11 Scottish river

16 Hotel posting

20 Rage

23 United nations

24 Author Dinesen

25 \$ dispensers

26 Poet Angelou

27 "It's my turn!"

28 Genie's home

29 "Eu-reka!"

32 Pipe type

33 Rodeo rope

35 — tai

36 "Three Flags" artist — Johns

38 Dodge

39 Opera legend Callas

42 Pakistani language

43 Spice holder

44 Writer Wiesel

45 Mensa stats

46 Singer Lipa

47 "Mangia!"

49 Verse by Pablo Neruda

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Abigail Breslin, 27; Sarah Michelle Gellar, 46; Adrien Brody, 50; Brad Garrett, 63.

Happy Birthday: A positive attitude will help set the stage for a prosperous year. Being a good Samaritan will offer emotional rewards and opportunities. Channel your energy into home improvement projects, and take care of loose ends. Love and romance are favored and will motivate you to sport a trendy new look. Your numbers are 3, 12, 24, 29, 32, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to your plan, regardless of what others do or say. Do your own thing and you'll be happy with the results. An opportunity will require you to adjust your lifestyle to meet the demands needed to be successful. Romance is favored. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The changes happening around you will result in an emotional trade-off. Have a backup plan to ensure you can live up to your promises, regardless of how things unfold. Put your energy where it counts, and positive results will grow. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pay attention to criticism, but change only what you feel is necessary. The hands-on help you offer others will stifle contradictory or negative comments. Speak from the heart and you'll gain access to information that can improve your cash flow. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): High energy put to good use will pay off. Use what you learn to help those less fortunate or lagging for one reason or another. Your kindness

will encourage others to pitch in and help. Make your needs known and success will follow. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Check out possibilities, set up an interview or expand your interests. Don't let the changes others make slow you down or upset you. Be true to yourself and say no to anyone who takes you for granted. Progress will require commitment. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Enforce rules and change that will lead to greater security. A unique approach may not suit everyone, but it will weed out people who are wasting your time. Choose to be proactive and you'll maintain control and get what you want. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Push yourself to finish what you start. Learn from whatever experience you encounter and apply what you discover to improve health, relationships and the environment in which you live. Make romance a priority and kindness your calling card. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What you do counts more than what you say. A steady pace and a plan will ensure you get satisfaction from the process and the result. Set high standards, and don't make allowances for anyone using emotional manipulation to thwart your plans. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't trust someone else to have your best interest at heart. Take responsibility for prospects by discovering what's meaningful to you and how you can make your dreams come true. Take better care of yourself. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Adjustments at home will make your life easier. Don't let an outsider convince you to buy something you don't need. Set a budget and do the labor yourself to save and to ensure you get what you want. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let the changes or decisions someone makes disrupt your plans. Choose to do the work yourself; you'll be much happier with the results. Home improvements, lifestyle changes or a joint endeavor is favored. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put everything in order before you proceed. Knowing what you want and convincing others to accept your plans will ensure you get the help you need to be successful. Don't take a physical risk that can cause injury or illness. Handle finances carefully. ***



Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, persevering and helpful. You are ambitious and thorough.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1	3					7					
						9		4			
		6		4							
2		5	4								
	6										
9			2			1					
							3		9		
			8		6				5		
		2	7		5				4		

Difficulty: ★★★★★

4-14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	2	7	1	6	4	3	8	5
3	1	4	5	2	8	9	6	7
5	8	6	3	9	7	4	1	2
1	6	3	4	5	2	7	9	8
8	7	9	6	3	1	2	5	4
4	5	2	8	7	9	1	3	6
7	4	8	9	1	6	5	2	3
6	9	5	2	4	3	8	7	1
2	3	1	7	8	5	6	4	9

Difficulty: ★★

4-15

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SATURN'S RINGS Solution: 8 letters

S	F	E	I	B	E	L	M	A	N	A	T	I	T	L
E	N	R	E	E	N	O	I	P	B	A	R	T	X	E
V	N	O	I	T	A	M	R	O	F	D	E	E	P	S
E	O	C	O	D	O	S	N	Y	R	E	T	U	O	S
N	S	H	H	M	U	D	N	B	R	R	I	N	G	E
S	E	U	C	E	E	S	I	E	O	O	E	U	L	B
E	H	T	N	A	B	T	S	V	G	S	E	D	I	W
W	C	E	S	A	B	T	S	Y	I	Y	I	H	E	N
A	O	C	X	R	J	A	C	Y	K	S	U	Z	T	I
D	R	I	R	V	Z	R	H	S	C	I	H	E	K	
E	A	G	A	P	S	O	E	A	E	R	O	O	L	J
L	H	T	R	A	E	D	N	D	B	L	A	R	N	E
T	L	I	T	G	N	I	N	N	I	P	S	L	O	M
R	A	L	U	N	N	A	I	N	T	I	B	R	O	E
I	N	I	S	S	A	C	S	H	A	D	O	W	M	S

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Annular, Anthe, Axial, Barabachov, Bassel, Blue, Bond, Bright, Cassini, Core, Dawes, Division, Dusty, Earth, Extra, Feibelman, Formation, Gaps, Herschel, Huygens, Ice, Inner, Janus, Moonlet, Moons, Orbit, Outer, Pioneer, Ring, Roche, Rocky, Semjkin, Seven, Shadow, Size, Solar System, Speed, Spinning, Theory, Tholins, Tiit, Titan, Vortex, Wide, Zodiac
Yesterday's Answer: Celebrity

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

LaVine scores 39, Bulls beat Raptors in play-in game



TORONTO (AP)—Zach LaVine scored 39 points, DeMar DeRozan had 23 against his former team and the Chicago Bulls overcame a 19-point deficit to beat the Toronto Raptors 109-105 in a play-in tournament game Wednesday night.

Nikola Vucevic had 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Bulls, who trailed 66-47 in the third quarter before LaVine carried them back. He scored 17 points in the third as Chicago cut the gap to nine, then added 13 more in the fourth to help the Bulls advance.

Bulls coach Billy Donovan said LaVine was “phenomenal” against the Raptors. “His performance was extraordinary,” Donovan said. “It gave us life and it gave us hope.”

The Bulls will visit the Miami Heat on Friday night for the chance to earn the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference playoff bracket, and a first-round playoff matchup with Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks.

Chicago went 3-0 against the Heat this season. The Bulls won in Miami twice, including on opening night.

“They’re going to make adjustments. We are, too,” LaVine said. “It’s going to be whoever wants it more. I think it comes down to that.”

The Bulls shot 3 for 19 from 3-point range through the first three quarters but LaVine connected twice as Chicago made four of seven from distance in the fourth.

Fred VanVleet had 26 points and 12 rebounds and Pascal Siakam scored 32 points, but Toronto’s season ended in disappointment as the Raptors — with DeRozan’s nine-year-old daughter, Diar, screaming when they shot — went a dismal 18 for 36 at the free throw line. Toronto missed six attempts from the line in the fourth quarter.

“I thought we played well



AP
Chicago Bulls guard Zach LaVine (8) scores past Toronto Raptors forward Scottie Barnes (4) during the first half of an NBA basketball play-in tournament game Wednesday, April 12, 2023, in Toronto.

enough to win tonight but it just didn’t go our way,” Raptors coach Nick Nurse said.

Scottie Barnes had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, and O.G. Anunoby scored 13 points. Toronto didn’t win three straight until January and never won more than four in a row in a season that struggled to generate any momentum.

“We’re going to have to be better,” Siakam said. “Not consistent enough and that’s got to change.”

Chicago’s Alex Caruso connected from the corner to tie the score at 91-all with 7:08 left in the fourth quarter and Patrick Beverley’s 3 with 5:07 remaining gave the Bulls a 96-93 lead. It was Beverley’s first basket of the game.

VanVleet’s 3 with 3:11 to go knotted it again at 100-all, but LaVine and DeRozan replied with baskets for the Bulls.

Barnes and Siakam each made one of two at the line inside the final two minutes, and VanVleet missed a 3 that would have tied the game.

Siakam’s driving dunk with 19 seconds left cut it to 105-104. After a timeout, LaVine pushed the lead to three with a pair of free throws. Caruso fouled Siakam on a 3 but the Raptors star missed his second and third attempts.

The Raptors led 28-23 after one and 58-47 at the break after VanVleet connected on a halfcourt heave at the half-time buzzer.

VanVleet’s 3 with 9:09 left in the third gave Toronto a 19-point edge, but LaVine and the Bulls trailed 81-72 heading to the fourth.

Thunder 123, Pelicans 118

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

highlighted his 32-point night with a go-ahead baseline jumper and four clutch free throws in the final 29 seconds, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the New Orleans Pelicans 123-118 on Wednesday night to remain alive in the Western Conference play-in tournament.

Josh Giddey had 31 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for Oklahoma City, the only Western Conference team still playing with a losing record.

“We’ve been battle tested. We’ve played in a lot of close games all year, for the past couple of years,” Gilgeous-Alexander said. “Even when the season wasn’t going our way, we played in a lot of close games and we have good habits and we know what gets it done down the stretch.”

The loss eliminated the ninth-seeded Pelicans, while 10th seed Oklahoma City ad-

vanced to play at Minnesota on Friday night for the right to enter the NBA playoffs as an eighth seed and meet No. 1 Denver.

Brandon Ingram scored 20 of his 30 points in the second half, including a 3-pointer with 4.3 seconds left to give the Pelicans a slim chance to come back.

But after Gilgeous-Alexander hit two free throws, Herbert Jones threw away an inbound pass, virtually sealing New Orleans’ fate.

Lu Dort scored 27 for the Thunder, including a pair of free throws with 6.2 seconds left.

Jonas Valanciunas had 16 points and 18 rebounds for New Orleans, but checked out with 4:26 after apparently hurting his right foot. He returned only briefly in the final minute.

Trey Murphy III scored 21

points, Jones had 20 and CJ McCollum 14 for the Pelicans, who a season ago went 2-0 in play-in games as a ninth seed to advance to the first round of the playoffs.

This time New Orleans, which was at the top of the Western Conference standings in December, was left to wonder what might have been had Zion Williamson not gone out for the rest of the season with a hamstring injury on Jan. 2.

New Orleans led 69-62 early in the third quarter before the Thunder surged in front with a 13-2 run capped by Gilgeous-Alexander’s driving layup as he was fouled.

Gilgeous-Alexander scored 17 in the period and Giddey added 12, including his third 3 of the game to give Oklahoma City a 95-85 lead.

But New Orleans quickly tightened the game back up early in the fourth with a 7-0 run that included reserve guard Josh Richardson’s 3 that pulled the Pelicans to 98-96.

The Pelicans went back in front when Richardson’s steal and breakaway dunk made it 101-100, but as the Thunder came back up the court, Richardson was called for a foul after knocking Giddey to the floor near midcourt. Giddey angrily came to his feet and started angrily toward Richardson. Teammates held both at bay while officials called for a video review and determined that Richardson had committed a flagrant foul.

Giddey made one of two free throws to tie it and set the stage for an intense finish.

Dort, who averaged 13.7 points during the regular season, scored 14 in the first quarter. But the Pelicans surged in front late in the first half when Murphy hit a pair of 3s to help New Orleans go into halftime with a 63-57 lead.

Ingram appeared to turn his left ankle when he stepped on a foot late in the second quarter. He did not check out of the game, however, and played most of the second half.

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons, coming off one of the worst seasons in franchise history, are searching for a coach and hoping their new leader has Victor Wembanyama in the lineup.

Detroit closed its fourth straight season—and 12th in 14 years—without a postseason appearance on Sunday with a lopsided loss at Chicago.

After finishing an NBA-worst 17-65, Dwane Casey announced he was stepping down with one year left on his coaching contract to accept a role in the Troy Weaver-led front office.

Casey was hired by the Pistons in 2018, when he was

Pistons search for coach, hope to draft Victor Wembanyama

named the NBA Coach of the Year after his seventh season in Toronto. He led them to a .500 record in his first season and a playoff berth that ended with a first-round exit.

The team’s latest rebuilding effort crumbled due to moves that didn’t pan out, including trading for Blake Griffin, and injuries that kept key players such as Cade Cunningham off the court to hurt Casey’s chances of having success.

“We are grateful for his steady hand as head coach during these important development years, and we are ex-

cited to have his wisdom and experience in the front office as we enter the next phase,” team owner Tom Gores said. “Dwane joined us as an experienced and successful coach ready to lead a veteran team, but when we made adjustments as an organization to rebuild around a younger core he fully embraced the decision.”

Detroit desperately hopes its painful season will pave the way for Wembanyama to bring his talents to a franchise aiming to eventually add to its three NBA titles.

“It was something our orga-

nization had to go through,” Casey said last week. “It was painful. It was ugly.”

The Pistons, by only one game, beat their franchise-worst record from the 1979-80 season when Dick Vitale was fired 12 games into the season. Their miserable season, though, won’t give them a big advantage in the draft lottery.

Detroit, San Antonio and Houston each will have a 14% chance of picking first — and selecting a 7-foot-3 French phenomenon. Whether Wembanyama or another talented player joins the Pistons, they

need an influx of talent.

Jaden Ivey and Jalen Duren, the No. 5 and No. 13 pick overall last summer, did provide hope for the future with their play.

Ivey, an electric guard, averaged 16-plus points and more than five assists to rank among rookie leaders. The 19-year-old Duren, who started the season as the NBA’s youngest player, averaged about nine points, nine rebounds and one block a game.

Cunningham, the No. 1 pick overall in 2021, had his second season stunted by shin surgery

after playing in just 12 games.

“Cade going down was a blessing in disguise for Ivey,” Casey said last week, referring to the transition to point guard that the former Purdue star was forced to make.

Bojan Bogdanovic, who averaged a career-high 21.6 points, Isaiah Stewart, James Wiseman and Marvin Bagley are expected to be back to give the young team some experienced players in the rotation.

“I’m still excited about what we got here,” Bagley said. “We got guys that care and are not OK with losing and that in itself is a sign of a team that can be great.”

Rays reach 12-0 to match best streak, close in on MLB record



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays won their 12th straight game to start the season, one short of the major league record, as Randy Arozarena hit a three-run homer in a 9-7 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night.

The 1987 Milwaukee Brewers and 1982 Atlanta Braves both opened 13-0, tying for the best mark in big league history. Tampa Bay's 12-game winning streak matches the team record set in June 2004.

Taj Bradley (1-0) won his major league debut for the Rays. The 22-year-old right-hander allowed three runs and struck out eight over five innings.

DODGERS 10, GIANTS 5

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Max Muncy hit a three-run homer and a solo shot to lead Clayton Kershaw and Los An-

geles past rival San Francisco. Muncy finished the three-game series with four home runs and 11 RBIs as the Dodgers took two of three. Kershaw (2-1) allowed two earned runs and five hits over six innings.

BRAVES 5, REDS 4

ATLANTA (AP)—Eddie Rosario led off the eighth inning with a tie-breaking home run and Atlanta beat Cincinnati to sweep the three-game series.

Buck Farmer (0-3) gave up the homer as the Reds fell to 0-5 in one-run games, including each of the three losses in Atlanta.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, BREWERS 3

PHOENIX (AP)—Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a three-run homer for his first long ball with the Diamondbacks, rookie Drey Jameson pitched four scoreless innings and Arizona took two of three in the series.

Arizona took a 5-0 lead

BLUE

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bered and I can only hope to inspire others by being the first female to play in the big leagues," she said.

The top woman hitter in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League thanked her Blue Jays teammates for all the support she received in the young season.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my team and all their efforts. My teammates were very supportive of me and I want to thank the entire team for this wonderful achieve-

ment," she said.

The 17-year-old from Kagman High School also gave her hat's off to opposing pitcher Tenorio for his gamesmanship in the final moments of the game.

"The pitcher gave me a chance but the crowd didn't like it. The next pitch I got what everyone wanted, a fastball. On the third pitch, I surprisingly made contact with the ball," she said.

Camacho is hopeful that in the years to come, women playing in the SBL becomes common practice.

"I may be the first woman to ever play in the big leagues, but I won't be the last."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Blue Jays' Kiana "Baby K" Camacho, seen here in a file photo, became the first woman in Saipan Baseball League history to play in the league when she entered in the seventh inning and even recorded a hit.



Tampa Bay Rays' Wander Franco scores in front of Boston Red Sox catcher Reese McGuire on a sacrifice fly by Randy Arozarena during the eighth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, April 12, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

through four innings thanks to Gurriel's third-inning drive and shoddy Brewers defense that committed three errors. Milwaukee starter Janson Junk (0-1) gave up five runs, including four earned, over 4 2/3 innings. The 27-year-old—making his first start of the season—surrendered eight hits, struck out two and walked two.

TWINS 3, WHITE SOX 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Sonny Gray threw five scoreless innings in a third straight strong start to open the season for Minnesota, outdueling Lucas Giolito to beat Chicago.

Gray (2-0) gave up three hits and two walks with five

strikeouts. He was pulled after only 78 pitches after lowering his ERA to 0.53. Jhoan Duran finished the ninth for his third save after allowing a two-out homer to Lenyn Sosa.

YANKEES 4, GUARDIANS 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Oswaldo Cabrera hit a tiebreaking, two-out double in the ninth inning off Cleveland closer Emmanuel Clase and the New York Yankees survived a nerve-racking finish.

Cabrera's shot to right off Clase (1-1) scored Giancarlo Stanton, who reached on an infield single with one out and went to second on shortstop Amed Rosario's throwing error.

Yankees closer Clay Holmes loaded the bases in the ninth on a hit batter and two walks before striking out Rosario for the final out and his fourth save. Wandy Peralta (1-0) pitched a hitless eighth for the win.

ROYALS 10, RANGERS 1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—MJ Melendez drove in three runs to back another strong outing from Brad Keller, and Kansas City avoided a three-game sweep with a rout of Texas.

Vinnie Pasquantino homered, and Bobby Witt Jr. had an RBI triple among three hits with a career-high three stolen bases against his hometown team as the Royals ended a three-game losing streak.

BLUE JAYS 4, TIGERS 3, 10 INNINGS

TORONTO (AP)—George Springer singled home the winning run in the 10th inning and Toronto handed Detroit its sixth consecutive defeat.

The Blue Jays erased a two-run deficit in the ninth on sacrifice flies by Whit Merrifield and pinch-hitter Alejandro Kirk off Chasen Shreve (0-1) after reliever Trey Wingenter

loaded the bases.

ASTROS 7, PIRATES 0

PITTSBURGH (AP)—José Urquidy scattered two hits over six innings and rookie Corey Julks hit the first home run of his big league career as Houston shut out Pittsburgh.

Urquidy (1-0) allowed singles by Carlos Santana and Jack Suwinski as the reigning champions took two of three in their first visit to Pittsburgh since 2013. Urquidy struck out two and walked three.

Julks, Chas McCormick and José Abreu had two hits each for Houston. Alex Bregman homered for the second straight game, a three-run shot in the seventh that gave the Astros plenty of breathing room.

MARINERS 5, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Logan Gilbert pitched 6 2/3 innings of four-hit ball, Teoscar Hernández and Jarred Kelenic hit consecutive home runs in the eighth and Seattle snapped a three-game losing streak.

Kelenic's homer landed in the upper center field bleachers and traveled 482 feet, the second-longest at Wrigley Field since Statcast began tracking in 2015 and trailing only Willson Contreras' 491-footer in Game 4 of the 2017 NL Championship Series.

ANGELS 3, NATIONALS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Griffin Canning pitched five solid innings in his first big league appearance in 22 months, and rookie Logan O'Hoppe drove in the tie-breaking run for Los Angeles against Washington.

Brett Phillips scored an early run, drove in another with a bases-loaded walk and stole a probable homer from Keibert Ruiz in center field during his eventful first start for the Angels, who took two of three from Washington.

ATHLETICS 8, ORIOLES 4

BALTIMORE (AP)—Brent Rooker hit a three-run homer in the first inning, and Carlos Pérez homered and had three hits to help the Oakland Athletics snap their six-game losing streak.

The A's squandered a 4-2 lead, but they recovered with three runs in the eighth to go back ahead for good. Orioles reliever Keegan Akin (0-1) allowed two straight singles to start the inning, and then Aledmys Díaz reached on a bunt single against Cionel Pérez.

METS 5, PADRES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Francisco Lindor and Pete Alonso homered, David Robertson got four key outs and the New York Mets beat San Diego to take two of three from the Padres in a rematch of their playoff series last October.

Taylor Megill (3-0) allowed two runs, three hits and three walks in five innings for the Mets, who lost last year's Wild Card Series to the Padres 2-1.

MARLINS 3, PHILLIES 2, 10 INNINGS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryan De La Cruz won the game with an RBI single in the 10th inning and Jorge Soler's solo tying homer in the eighth sparked Miami to take two of three from the NL champions.

De La Cruz singled off Craig Kimbrel and knocked home Nick Fortes, who had pinch run for automatic runner Soler. Gregory Soto (1-2) took the loss. De La Cruz was thrown out at second trying to extend the hit into a double.

CARDINALS 7, ROCKIES 4

DENVER (AP)—Nolan Gorman hit a late tiebreaking home run for the second straight day, lifting St. Louis over Colorado.

Nolan Arenado hit his 139th home run at Coors Field and Tyler O'Neill got his first home run since opening day.

By MARK RABAGO
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Saipan Southern High School pulled off one of the biggest upsets early in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic High School

Manta Rays rally to bring down Eagles

Volleyball League 2022-2023 season after rallying to beat defending champion Grace Christian Academy.

The Manta Rays got off to a shaky start and went down



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Southern High School and Grace Christian Academy players meet at the net in the first set of their NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 season game last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

A's Car Aircon freezes JSN Enterprises, 72-56

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



A's Car Aircon remained perfect after drubbing JSN Enterprises in the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

The team was hot from the get-go as it juxtaposed frigid shooting JSN Enterprises, 21-12, after the first quarter of play.

It was more of the same in the second canto, as A's Car Aircon hummed to an even bigger lead, 40-24, at the half.

JSN Enterprises continued to be in disarray in the third, as they couldn't engineer any semblance of a comeback and still trailed big time, 38-47, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

There were multiple times that JSN Enterprises cobbled together a string of points, but not serious enough to threaten A's Car Aircon as the latter went on to register the 16-point win.

Cecilio Bisana paced A's Car Aircon with 15 points, while Bryan Manabat supported him with 11 markers of his own as the team won its third game in as many tries.

Jun Tabora was the lone bright spot for JSN Enterprises with 22 points to lead all scorers as the team dropped its second game in three outings.

In the second game, Ali'i won its third consecutive game to raise its record to 4-1

after serving Susan's Catering an 82-60 loss.

Ali'i raced to a 20-12 lead after the first 10 minutes of play, but Susan's Catering narrowed that to 46-43 at intermission.

The third quarter saw Ali'i regain some of the momentum, allowing it to post an 8-point spread heading into the payoff period. Then in the fourth, Susan's Catering collapsed under torrid shooting from Ali'i, as they absorbed their fourth loss against a lone win.

Brendon Talania and Marlon De Dios bludgeoned Susan's Catering all game long, finishing with 19 points and 18 points, respectively.

Craig Padayao and Joseph Torres led Susan's Catering after combining for 26 markers.

First Game

A's Car Aircon 72 – Bisana 15, Manabat 11, Pangelinan 10, Basi 7, D. Tibayan 7, Fundador 6, Tobias 5, Montano 4, De Guzman 3, R. Tibayan 2, Ang 2.

JSN Enterprises 56 – Tabora 22, Joyner 9, Santos 5, Wesley 5, Ocampo 4, Lizama 4, Villanueva 3, Elchico 3, Singca 3, Zapata 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-12, 40-24, 57-38, 72-56.

Second Game

Ali'i 82 – Talania 19, De Dios 18, Devero 12, Elchico 9, Esdreton 6, Aitogue 3, Castro 2, Mateo 2.

Susan's Catering 60 – Padayao 14, Torres 12, Bernardo 11, Duenas 10, Castillo 8, Galare 3, Genese 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-



MARK RABAGO

A's Car Aircon's Ferdie Tobias is fouled by JSN Enterprises' Tim Wesley during their masters division game in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

early and often and dropped the first set, 14-21.

The Eagles tried to reassert their dominance in the second set and quickly finish off the game, but coach Shawn Davis' crew would have

none of it and forced a third and deciding set by winning the second set, 21-17.

SSHS then continued their magical run in the race-to-15 by surprising GCA at every turn before hacking

out a 15-8 win to the delight of their appreciative crowd last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Manta Rays thus evened their win-loss record to 2-2, while dealing GCA its

second loss in four outings.

The victorious Manta Rays are made up of Lerry Marquez, Jin Tao, Angelbert Olas, Franz Abadilla, Ron Patricio, JiaHao Chen, Simon Tang, Jhan Valienta, VuTheson Arachchige, Vince Guilas, and Adrian Manalang.

The GCA roster includes Seth Balakrishna, Ryan Daproza, Jasper Hall, Noah Lee, Miles Linden, Kyle San Hyun Moon, Akira Ota, Jack Raho, Tristan Raho, Julian Taitano, Jiahao Yang, Sui Yi, and Jiahang Wu. They are coached by Krisele Esteves.

In other games last Tuesday at the newly air-conditioned Home of the Dolphins, MHS 3 took down Agape Christian School 2, 21-9, 21-18; MHS 2 beat Mount Carmel School 2, 21-9, 22-20;

ACS 1 triumphed over MCS 1, 21-15, 21-16; and MHS 1 defeated Kagman High School 1, 21-10, 21-17.

MHS 1 continues to lead the varsity standings at 5-0, followed by Saipan International School at 2-0. GCA is tied with Agape Christian School at 2-2, while Mount Carmel School is winless in five games.

In junior varsity standings, MHS 2 is also perfect at 4-0, followed by MHS 3 (3-1), Saipan Southern High School (2 2-1), SIS 2 (1-1), ACS 2 (1-3), and MCS 2 (0-4).

Agape, FMS put on clinic vs SCS, GCA

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Agape Christian School and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School out-

classed separate opponents in the resumption of the 2022-2023 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Torchbearers momentarily lost Raffy Cai to a knee injury and trailed early against Saipan Community School.

After a couple of minutes, the point guard was back in harness as he and Daniel Song proceeded to lead ACS to a rout of the Guardians and led 16-10 at the half.

It would only get from bad to worse for SCS as Daniel Yang entered the scoring picture and the trio scored basket after basket while Daniel Ye was essentially the lone wolf for the Guardians.

In the end ACS pulled off a 31-18 win over SCS with Song, Cai and Yang leading the way with 13, 11, and 8 points, respectively.

Ye was practically the of-

fense for the Guardians, scoring all but 2 points of their total.

In the other game, the Napu Riders opened a 34-8 lead at the half and never looked back in their 47-point shellacking of Grace Christian Academy, 60-13.

Jairus Pangilinan paced scorers with 14 points, while Leon Duenas chipped in 10 markers. The Eagles were led by the 8 points of

Austin Yumul,

In other games last Wednesday, Mount Carmel School varsity throttled Tanapag Middle School varsity, 40-11; Saipan International School routed Hopwood Middle School varsity, 35-13; DanDan Middle School varsity beat ChaCha Oceanview Middle School varsity, 35-25; and HMS JV waylaid SIS JV, 36-9.

FMS varsity 60 – Pang-

ilinan 14, Duenas 10, Camacho 8, Defang 6, Piteg 4, Hiroichi 4, Lucero 2, Derek 2, Lieto 2.

GCA 13 – Yumul 8, Raymundo 3, Ordas 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-18, 60-13.

ACS 31 – Song 13, Cai 8, Yang 8.

SCS 18 – Ye 16, De Oro 2.

Scoring by halves: 16-10, 31-18.



MARK RABAGO

Agape Christian School Daniel Song shoots over Saipan Community School defenders during their game in the 2022-2023 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



LaVine scores 39,
Bulls beat Raptors
in play-in game

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Manta Rays rally
to bring down
Eagles

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Top seeds majestic in Crowne Plaza tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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The top seeds so far have walked the red carpet to the latter rounds of the 2023 NMI Crowne Plaza Junior Tennis Championships held simultaneously at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and American Memorial Park tennis courts.

No. 1 seed David Kwon debuted with a tough 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 win over Cody Shimizu in the boys 18. Shimizu then bounced back by beating June Yu, 6-4, 6-3.

In the girls 16, top seed Hoo Wang advanced to the finals after beating Savita Sikkil, 6-1, 6-3.

Second seed Anne Lee and Irin Chung will contest the other finals slot after defeating Anna Kwon (6-1, 6-0) and Isa Nishitani (6-0, 6-0), respectively.

June Yu and Siwoo Lee, the Top 2 seeds in the boys 16, will duke it out in the finals after Yu beat Nason Wessel,

7-6 (5), 6-1, and Lee topped Henry Choi, 6-1, 1-6, 7-5, in the semis.

In the boys 14, No. 1 seed Wessel got a bye in the first

round and will face Ryan Choi, a 6-1, 6-0 winner over Taher Shakir, in the semis. The other semis pairing will have Matthew Hwang facing Ian

Chae after the two defeated Jihun Park (6-2, 7-5) and Eamon Tang (6-0, 6-0), respectively.

Lina Tsukagoshi, meanwhile, justified her top seeding in the girls 14 after eliminating Stella Choi, 6-1, 6-1, to again make a finals appearance.



Tsukagoshi

She will be challenged by either Hannah Chae or Eunho Amy Park. The former got a bye in the opening round,

while the latter beat Emma Lang, 6-4, 6-1, to make the quarters.

In the boys 12, No. 1 seed



Kwon

Jinho Cody Park will take on No. 2 Min Joon Michael Jeon after both disposed of their semis opponents. Park got the better of Matt Zhu, 6-1, 6-3, while Jeon outlasted Haoyang Song, 6-2, 1-6, 10-2.

In the lone match so far in the girls 14, Vivian Chung was a 6-3, 6-2 victor over Chlorie Lee.

Cooper Koning Fong raced to a 2-0 record in the boys 10

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Blue Jays defeat Braves, 8-5

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The Blue Jays went redhot in the second inning with five runs then held on to beat the Braves, 8-5, for its first win in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The game was also historic as Blue Jays Kiana "Baby K" Camacho became the first woman in SBL history to play in the league.

The Braves actually drew first blood when J.J. Teigita doubled and later reached home for a 1-0 lead after the opening inning.

But that was the only time the Braves had the upper hand as singles by James Salalila and Mark Toves and control problems by Braves starting pitcher Aaron Camacho in the second inning allowed five runners to cross home plate, giving the Blue Jays a com-



MARK RABAGO

Blue Jays' Tony Benavente Jr. gets ready to pitch in the early innings of their Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season game against the Braves last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

» As Kiana Camacho makes history

manding 5-1 spread.

The Braves scored a run in the bottom of the inning to make it 2-5, but mustered only three more runs the rest of the way while allowing the Blue Jays to score the same number of runs.

Salalila went 2-for-5 with two runs and an RBI, while Travis Malwebug and Nate Sablan also drove in runs for the Blue Jays, which leveled their record at 1-1.

Teigita went 2-for-3 at the plate to go along with three runs and the aforementioned double. Andrew Camacho also doubled after going 2-for-3 as well for the Braves, who remain winless after two games.

Kiana Camacho, meanwhile, made it to the CNMI's sports annals when she replaced Shan Mendiola in the last inning.

Facing Braves pitcher Jayden Tenorio, she made contact on the third pitch and took first base on a fielder's choice.

"Everybody deserves a time and place to be remem-

See BLUE on Page 22

Joe I. Sablan is SGA March Ace

By MARK RABAGO
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Joe I. Sablan topped the Saipan Golfers Association

March Ace of the Tournament last March 25 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Sablan fired a 65 net score built around a gross score of 89. He shot a 46 in the front nine before retiring to the clubhouse with a 43 in the back nine.

Rene Batallones was a far six strokes off Sablan's total with a 71 net. He came away with that net score after shooting a 41 and 46 in the front and back end for a gross of 87.

Tony Deleon Guerrero completed the Top 3 with his 72 net score. He clubbed a 44 in the first nine holes before improving by two



Sablan

strokes for a 46 in the final nine for a gross of 90.

In the closest to the pin competi-

tion, Jung Eun Teack was supreme in holes No. 3 and 14, Patrick Cepeda was without peer in hole No. 12, while Tony Deleon Guerrero beat everyone in hole No. 12.

Batallones and Deleon Guerrero brought out the lumber in holes No. 8 and 18, respectively, to win the longest drive competitions.

Sablan now joins early qualifiers for the SGA 2023 Ace of the Month Tournament—Ray Salas for January and Das Krishnan for February.

The SGA 2023 April Ace of the Month Tournament

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